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THE HINDU on Sunday

JUNE 5, 2022

INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
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Kanpur clash main accused, three others arrested in Lucknow
page 10

12 killed, 21 injured in blast at illegal toy factory in U.P.
page 10

Four Punjab Congress leaders and former Ministers join BJP
page 11

Swiatek claims her second French Open title in style
page 18

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NEARBY

Omicron BA.2 continues to be dominant VoC

BENGALURU

The latest genome sequencing data of SARS-CoV-2 in the State has not shown emergence of any new variants and the dominant variant of concern (VoC) continues to be Omicron BA.2 till May end.

BENGALURU ▸ PAGE 6

Heavy vehicles may be allowed on flyover

BENGALURU

After a gap of over five months, the authorities are likely to allow heavy vehicles, such as buses, trucks, and others, on the Goraguntepalya flyover (Peenya flyover). However, multi-axle trucks carrying heavy loads will not be allowed.

BENGALURU ▸ PAGE 3

CLASSIFIEDS ▸ PAGES 2 & 3
MAGAZINE ▸ 8 PAGES

J&K govt. posts Pandit teachers to 'safer zones' within Valley

Security breach feared as transfer list goes viral

PEERZADA ASHIQ
SRINAGAR

The Jammu & Kashmir administration has started posting Kashmiri Pandit teachers in government schools to "safer zones" in a bid to discourage their desire to leave the Kashmir Valley. This follows a string of targeted attacks by militants on members of the minority community that left nine people dead in the past one month.

Srinagar's Chief Education Officer has posted 177 Pandit staff, recruited under the Prime Minister's special employment scheme, to more secure zones in the city. Most of them have been posted in areas around the Army Cantonment such as Badamibagh, Batwara and Athwajan, or high-security areas such as Jawahar Nagar, Rajbagh and Barzulla.

Up in arms: Jammu-based government staff, posted in Kashmir, during a protest rally on Saturday. • PTI

Non-teaching Pandit employees have also been shifted to safer locations.

However, the list of the 177 teachers went viral on social media, raising fear of a security breach.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 10

Muslim clerics, civil society slam attacks

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR

Top religious leaders in the Kashmir Valley, including the grand mufti, and civil society groups on Saturday condemned the targeted attacks on members of the minority communities.

"Plurality is a basic and fundamental fact of Kashmiri society and everyone should understand this," the leaders said at a meeting here.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 10

Centre yet to pay airlines for Operation Ganga evacuation

No discussion on billing criteria when they were roped in

SUHASINI HAIDAR
JAGRITI CHANDRA
NEW DELHI

Nearly three months after the conclusion of Operation Ganga for evacuation of Indians from Ukraine, the government is yet to clear the bills sent by six major airlines, which deployed 76 flights for the exercise between February and March.

Officials said that the process for clearing the disbursal is still under way. Given the large amounts under consideration, an official said the matter would be resolved in some time, indicating that only a few months had elapsed since the evacuation.

The Ministry of External Affairs declined to comment on the matter.

Safe home: Indian nationals after their arrival at the Hindon airbase near Delhi on March 10. • PTI

The cost of chartering flights was not taken up with airlines before roping them in for the evacuation. The official said that this was because the process was taken up under "an emergency" and "for the nation".

The Ministry of Civil Aviation, which brought various airlines onboard despite their initial reluctance, received the bills and vetted them before sending them to the MEA for clearance.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 10

Our government treads 'Basava patha': Bommai

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

A day after announcing that content related to social reformer Basaveshwara in the revised school textbooks would be suitably edited so as not to "hurt community sentiments", Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Saturday described his government as one that treads 'Basava Patha' (the path of Basava). Seers of Veerashaiva-Lingayat community, a strong base for the ruling BJP, have been up in arms opposing what they call inappropriate portrayal of Basaveshwara and his principles.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 7

Hyderabad gang-rape: BJP MLA shares video

The legislator urges police to clarify if youth seen in the clip is the son of an MLA

MARRI RAMU
HYDERABAD

The case of gang-rape of a minor in Hyderabad's upscale Jubilee Hills took a twist on Saturday with Bharartiya Janata Party MLA Raghunandan Rao releasing private photos and a video clip of the victim and a youth, urging the police to clarify if the person seen in the photos and video clip was the son of an MLA.

While the Hyderabad police have arrested a youth, Saduddin Malik, and two children in conflict with law and presented them before the courts, Mr. Rao sought to know why the police kept mum on the complicity of the youth seen in the photos and video clip.

Stating that if the BJP sought a CBI probe, the Opposition parties would allege false implications, the legislator demanded investigation by a High Court judge.

Referring to remarks by the police that some were making baseless charges on involvement of an MLA's son in the case, he said that he had 'more pics and content' to prove the connection of the "MLA's son" to the gang-rape. "Will the police identify the youngster or should I provide more evidence?" he told media persons.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 10

Corbevax gets nod as COVID-19 booster dose

BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN
NEW DELHI

The Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) has approved Hyderabad-based Biological E. Limited (BE)'s COVID-19 vaccine Corbevax as a COVID-19 booster dose.

The vaccine can be administered to adults six months after the administration of second dose of Covaxin or Covishield for restricted use in emergency situations.

Corbevax is India's first approved heterologous COVID booster (when the third dose is different from earlier doses), the company said.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 10

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Shore of sand

Villagers on the banks of the Munneru river in Andhra Pradesh make a living by mining sand

G.N. RAO

The banks of the Munneru on the Andhra Pradesh-Telangana boundary bustle with activity almost throughout the year as several poor families that live nearby take out sand from the river and sell it for a living. Sand is the only means of livelihood for them. They sell it at Nandigama, Penuganchiprolu and Jaggaiahpet in NTR district and places as far as Suryapet, Khammam, Warangal and Hyderabad.

Except during rain, it is a thriving business in which the young and old alike are fully engaged. They keep digging out sand and loading it onto nearly 300 bullock carts every day. The mineral is transported to various places in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana where it is sold at ₹500 to ₹1,000 a load (one bullock cart) depending on the distance and demand.

Children studying from seventh to 10th classes in nearby schools help their elders by loading sand from the river. Women are part of the workforce. Some bullock cart owners sell the sand to lorry owners, who, in turn, sell it at handsome prices in Khammam, Suryapet and Hyderabad.

Short break: A cattle rearer with a bullock.

Pulling away: Bullock carts are rented out at around ₹500 a day.

Sand run: Sand loads from the Munneru river at Penuganchipolu in NTR district of Andhra Pradesh are transported using bullock carts to distant places.

THE HINDU

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BRIDEGROOMS WANTED

COSMOPOLITAN

HINDU VANIKAVYSHYA Kerala, Tamil Nadu, 27, MBA, Working, Only Daughter, Financially Sound, Traditional Family, very small disability in one foot, Caste No Bar. Ph: 9446145227

Highly Educated Beautiful Girl Sc Hindu Mala, BE MBA IIM Bangalore, Asst. Manager, IOCL Mysore, 12Lks Year Dob 30-11-1991, Ht163Cms Solicit Proposals Well Settled Families Contact: 8919394072.

PHD, 5FT 3inch, 40yrs, Hindu, CEO at Blr. Expecting a suitable match (cast no bar). Ph: 9841023131

DOCTOR

RC CHRISTIAN Nadar, 31/168cm, Doctor, M.D (Gen.Med) persuing D.M. (Clinical Immunology & Rheumatology) seeks P.G Doctor / any super Specialty Doctor/ IAS/ Group I services Groom. Ct : 93311 93790.

SC, AGE 32, Fair, MBBS, MD, Doctor, Chennai. Seeks: Doctor, B.E in MNC or Any Govt. 9443682088, 7397438397

DR PG, Hindu Nadar Bride, 1995/170cm, Seeks DR Groom(UG/PG). 9976610580.

MCH SURGICAL Oncology (Ongoing), 27, 5ft 8inch, slim, good looking, Rohini, Rishaban seek DM / MCH / DrNB doing vegetarian groom, 27-30, from Chennai. CNB. Contact 6383189302

DOCTOR GIRL MD Anesthesiology 32/165 from affluent elite family of doctors.Working in top hospital Chennai. Fair beautiful good mannered andcultured. Father doctor Kerala Nair , Engineer & Doctor grooms with MD MS MCh DM from good family background from Kerala and TamilNadu preferable. Ct: 9840050381 9840985383

HINDUNADAR,NOV94 BORN, Doctor MD (Internal Medicine),Avittam, Makaram,fair and slim,157cm Father Dr,seeks PG Doctors/civil services, BC Groom Ct 9841137372

Pillai/ Mudaliar 30/167cm avittam slim MD (Gen Medicine) Doctor works in pvt medical college seeks suitable doctor/civil service groom from TN/ Pondicherry Ct: 9566307322

IAS / ALLIED SERVICES

KERALITE HINDU girl, Asst. Commissioner, IRS. DOB:- 20.10.1990, 155 cm. Seeks groom preferably Civil Servants/ Doctors/ Similar Group A officers. Contact : 9495033834.

ALLIANCE INVITED for an Elite background, PIRAMALAI KALLAR, Chennai, Beautiful, Wisdom Girl, 5Ins, 28/168, Well earning, MBBS, MD(Dermatology), working in Number 1 Hospital in Chennai. Seeking well qualified Hindu groom from an Elite background, smart, good-looking, (Doctors / Civil services – IAS / IFS / IRS) Email: orthosurgeon0212@gmail.com

MALAYALAM

FIRST GENERATION believer parents of Dental Dr. & IAS Aspirant 24 yrs seek born again bride groom pref Engrs/IAS/Govt.Officers sumykumar83@gmail.com

PROPOSALS FROM boys with matching profile for Nair girl, born October 1983, 158cms fair athletic M.Sc SWE, senior systems analyst on deputation to Toronto, expected back before the end of the year. Contact: 9446022706 or mainjk54@gmail.com

NAIR GIRL,26 doing MD, General Medicine, PG doctors interested.9847334042

THRISSUR (KERALA) based Ezhava parents looking for professionally qualified grooms settled in Canada/US for their good looking daughter, 31/5'1", M.Tech (Chemical), working in MNC Chennai. Parents' Mob: 9496126301, E-mail: shivamrutham90@gmail.com

TAMIL

MUSLIM GIRL 33/173 Sr. SWE in UK on work visa, Seeks IT Professionals groom age below 37 and above 173cm willing to relocate. Cont: 9003765355

CHRISTIAN BRIDE, 23yrs, Studying MS in USA, seeks End Time Message Christian Ct: saranm_777@yahoo.com

TAMIL SUNNYMUSLIM Girl 26 Years MBBS Chennai seeks Unmarried Muslim MBBS (Indian/Univ) Boy Call 9500180788

CHRISTIAN 32 years BE Non-IT Working in MNC at Chennai Seeks BE Non-IT Working Groom from a literate Decent Christian Family Contact: 94443 25317.

TAMIL CHRISTIAN Nadar Girl Virtuous, very fair from decent family BE 24yrs 170cms MNC employed. Contact: arunasalsamyanthony@yahoo.com

OUR TWIN girls both BE/MNC 25/5.5ft slim settled Chennai seeks suitable Tamil muslim grooms Ct:98412 17645.

CHRISTIAN 26/165 Born again fair good looking MS employed Canada seeks God fearing well educated employed willing to settle in Canada Christian groom. Caste no bar. 9894234694

AGAMUDI MUDALIAR,ELITE Family Sep91/165,PG,Working HR MNC Seeks MS/ M.Tech Groom. 9952997553 / 9176780777

TAMIL

CSI CHRISTIAN Nadar Girl Fair, Good Looking, 03-04-1986 born / 152cm / M.Sc M.Phil, working as Assistant Professor in a Reputed Women's College, Mount Road, Chennai. Both Parents Doctors (Private), Suitable Alliance, Employed / Settled in Chennai / With Clean Habits from Same Community. Contact: 9841182514

CHRISTIAN (RC) AD 37 yrs BE MS USA ,working in SWE in MNC Chn.(H1B visa -process) CNB seeks suitable groom. 9841715417

RC NADAR, 31/155, B.Tech., Working in TCS, Canada. Holding Canadian PR. (Caste No bar), 7538602230

VERY WELL to do Parents of Nadar Christian girl, well educated, well placed, fair, beautiful, invite marriage Proposal from well to do parent of the Bridegroom, well educated, well placed age 32 to 35 Send bio-date to 95000 27027.

GIRL 34 yrs,Fair, Mithunam, B.Com, MBA,Grammani ,working, Seeks suitable groom. Contact: 9445287838

SAIVA PILLAI 30 Thiruvathirai 165 BTech MBA MNC seeks from Well Settled Groom. 044 48041602 / 9643003640

HASTHAM 34/154 fair MCA Upper mid Clas Seeks Mudaliar / pillai professionally Qualified Groom 8220757159

MUDALIAR (CNB) 24/165, BE, MS (UK) , MNC, Data Analyst, London, Elite Family, Seeks Groom Any Abroad / Business – 8925019776

✔ **SAIVA VELLALA** Pillai (Veg) 41/162 BE Divorcee Seeks Any Degree Well Employed Groom below 45. Send BH (P) to Watsapp: 9342602187 / muthuvel4354@gmail.com

ASST. PROF. Tuluva Vellal Mudaliar Good looking Girl 34 Uthirattathy, Meenam, Ph.D(Physics), Family Seeks Alliance from First and Unmarried Bachelor Bridegroom Aged 34-36 Yrs, Employed, Caste no bar. Contact: After 7 PM, 7550245659

VANNIAR UTHIRAM Good looking 33/167, PG, SWE, Divorcee. No issue. Seeks well employed issueless groom from Good family. Cont: 7539960229

HINDU EZHAVA 34, MCA, Asst Manager in Govt bank, seeking a well qualified Groom under 38 yrs from South TamilNadu. Caste no bar, Contact : 9489944130

HINDU AD 29 MCA Seeks Educated Employed Groom 8610410886

HINDU NADAR Girl 28 yrs 167 cm, wheatish, 64 kg, M.E Assistant Professor in Engg college, Upper middle class. Seeks equally qualified boy in job / business. Ct: 96265 15511

HINDU SC PR Kongu 1984 MBBS OCH Doctor, working in Govt Hospital seeks suitable groom.Ct:94436-80973.

SC AD 27 M.Sc employed Poonatathi Natchathiram Meena Rasi seeks suitable groom. 9940242293/ 9176087584

IYER VADAMA 46yrs Hastham Widow Supvr. central Govt. seeks Iyer/Iyengar Graduate Bride Groom, unmarried/divorcee/ widower contact: 96000 50865

28YRS BE.Comp.Sc Kattu Naicker (Veda Naicker) Native: Karur wants suitable Bridegroom same caste preferred. PH: 94871-21867.

TAMIL VISWAKARMA 39/150 fair Thiruvonam/ Rich / ME seeks suitable Same Caste Groom. 9486320982

PILLAI 23/158 BE Singapore uthradam seeks well qualified Singapore Citizen or PR only Gautham 9884686014

BALIJA, 1990 born, CA triplet, 5ft 5inch charming seeks professional groom, ct: 7339373793

HINDU Chettiar/ Pillai Kanni Hastam 40/158 B.Sc Psy,B.Sc VC Dip TTC Artist, Self Empld Veg Wheatish Marriage invalid by Court, Seeks Groom Brahmin /Other caste unmarried / Divorced(no Child)/Spritual 8072115712.

VANNIAR+ MUDALIAR 29/162, Fair & Beautiful, B.Arch, Business, Chennai,Only Daughter, Elite Family. Seeks Affluent Business Groom Chennai or Coimbatore-9840480334, 8939012419

HINDU, SC Adi Dravida, BE-MBA, working in Accenture, Age – 29, contact: 9444991091.

VANNIYAKULA KSHATRIYAR Fair, Slim, 25/164, Avittam, B.E Seeks Groom from Well Settled family. Ct:- 9840028346

HINDU NADAR, 1991 /165CM, MBBS.,MD (Anaesthesia), Poosam, Katagam, Fair seeks Suitable Groom. reshmim91@gmail.com, 9942085205

TAMIL HINDU, 1989 Born, Homely Bride, Rich Family, Hastham, seeks Groom, 1984 - 89 Born, Unmarried, Handsome Well settled Business Family in South India, CNB. smjmduad@yahoo.com

AGAMUDAYA MUDALIAR 24,156 cms, Doctor working as J.R.JIPMER, Father Advocate. Mother Doctor. Looking suitable well educated Groom from same community Ct: 9443242281

CASTENOBAR CHETTIAR/ 1977 Nov / MCA/ Fair and Very young Looking Seeks Hindu forward community Contact: dsree202203@gmail.com, Ph:9790775450

TAMIL

HINDU SC AD 27 Fair, B.E Trichy Seeks Groom from Same Caste 9750040359 / 9442539235

27, FAIR, B.Tech, M.S, working in Chennai D/O Ex M.L.A, G.D/O EX M.P. Seeks settled groom CNB. 9489936553

ADIDRAVIDAR, HINDU 23/169, Colour Beautiful , BE , Lives in Chennai, Father is an affluent Businessman with Good Network.Looking for a Compatible & well Educated Groom.Ct: 9444381207 / 8056201702 / 9176627918

HINDU SC/AD 28yrs/160cm BE., ECE Chennai seeks Professionally qualified groom below 32 yrs. Ct : 9710843632

NRI TAMIL MD Bride 25 Y, 168 cm, looking for Bride Groom Clinical Doctors with MD/MS from Tamil BC/FC community, Non vegetarian Age Group 28 to 30, Contact: 8754550159

MUDALIAR 33/ 152 PG Doctor Thiruvathirai seeks PG Doctors/ Business family/ Highly qualified groom between 33-36 yrs. CNB. Ct: 9884202884

CHETTIAR- CNB 31/170 fair btt B.Tech, PGDM- IIM- Calcutta/ MNC 40L. Rsq equally edu Groom Ct: 8300665039

HINDU, YADAVA, Widow, Unconsummated, 1975 born, software engr, Looks youthful & age defying, seeks similar match, qualified professional. Vegetarian preferred: contact/whatsApp: 8939042968

AUG 1979 born Associate Professor in Eng. College, Hastham star, Kanni Rasi Fair Homely Girl seeks Educated Groom from Thuluva Vellala Mudaliyar. Ct 9840477890 / 044-42647373.

VK KSHATRIYA Hindu Chennai CA girl 30/5ft 1inch expects groom from Chennai. Preferably CA. Caste no bar 9500100848/9840200907

CHETTIAR (CNB) 29 MBA (UK) fair, Seeks BE/Medical professional Bride. CT: 6381980158.

HINDU NADAR 27, MBBS, Bharani Mesham, Suddha Jathagam, Seeks Good looking Doctor. Ct:9965252880.

THANJAVUR SAIVAPILLAI 26/165 BE, Civil, Wheatish, Makaram seeks employed groom contact: 6380810427

SUPREME RICH Hindu Nadar 28, B.E.,Industrialist (Only Daughter) Fair,Seeks Groom , Ct: 7305491610

✔ **BEAUTIFUL, SLIM, Fair, Tall Iyengar Girl, BE + MBA (IIM), Running her own company, 38yrs. any Brahmin boy, (even if younger age) from elite family only (preferably running family business or a successful business background). She's a student of Bharathanatyam, Mohiniyattam and Kalaripayattu. Interests in arts, music, travel, nature & trekking. Fitness and health conscious. Contact : WhatsApp message at 9342075206 / 9342325727 (no calls please due to the heavy number of incoming calls) or Email: priyanka.gas@gmail.com**

ALLIANCE INVITED from professionally qualified Groom well placed within India from upper class family with clean habits for a charming fair Iyengar Vadakalai Girl 27, 150cms, Koundinya, Moolam 4th padam, BTech MBA, Chennai employed belonging to educated / affluent family, Iyengar/ Iyer/ any brahmin acceptable. Age difference 3 years. Horoscope matching optional. Call/ whatsapp: 9843341294 or 9843902242.

Catholic Adidravida Bride M.TECH (CSE), 24 yrs | 154 cm, SOFTWARE ENGINEER in CAPEGEMINI [Chennai]. Parents seek suitable groom from SOFTWARE PROFESSIONALS.
Call @ 9999143474

GROOMS WANTED
Vanniar + Mudaliar (Caste No Bar):
29/162, Fair & Beautiful, B.Arch, Father is a Business Man, Chennai, Affluent Family, Seeks Groom Rich & Affluent Business Family From Chennai or Coimbatore
Ct: 98404 80334, 89390 12419

Saiva Pillai, UK Doctor 27/180 Slim Fair Revathy seeks Tamil boy working in UK below 30 years of age from reputed family
Ct: 94864-89438
rcmp2021@gmail.com

BRIDES WANTED

COSMOPOLITAN

MUDALIYAR BOY MS Engineer in Sweden.180/76 from affluent cosmopolitan family, Uthiradam 35 caste no bar. Ct:9884187197.

MADHWA BRAHMIN boy 31/5ft 9inch software co Hyderabad seeks alliance from veg educated girls call 9820923790

DIVORCEE

PROPOSALS INVITED from Parents of bridegroom, 36 yrs, Tall, MD, Ph.D (USA) in Health Policy, Working in USA Divorced due to cultural incompatibility, No issue, from Balija/ Gavara Naidu Graduate brides, of decent, cultured family. Ct: 9790596780

DOCTOR

DOCTOR MD Radiology 35 years Hindu, Tamil , SC Pondicherry seeks Doctor Girl.Contact.7708756395

HINDU KALLAR GROOM
1995/174cm,Swathi/Thulam Doctor, MD, Practising in St.Stephes's Hospital, Delhi seeks suitable bride. Doctor preferred. Sub-sect no bar.
Mob: 88077 37237

HINDI

1985/175CM. IT. 30 Lakhs PA. Chennai. Father Doctor. Seeks well educated bride. WhatsApp: 96290 12248

HINDU 32 /5ft 9inch MBA(Australia) boy from Dehradun Asst prof in Rajagiri Business School kerla, seek Research scholar, PHD, lecturer Cast no bar 9415358896

MALAYALAM

BRAHMIN YOUTH 48 yrs / 5'4", Degree, own computer shop. Other caste & divorced also considerable. 9847704391.

WANTED HINDU Educated Employed Malayalee Bride for MBA Gold Medalist Grcom 33yrs/178cms Own Business. Caste no Bar Ph: 9500042949/ 7397311660

WANTED BRIDE for Nambiar youth, 27 Years, fair, 177cm, Post graduate Engineer from IIT, Employed as Post Graduate Engineer in Qualcomm at Bangalore. Middle class family of Kannur District Kerala, mother is employed in State Govt and father is a Group A officer of central govt. In search of suitable Girls (similarly qualified/well employed at Bangalore/well employed elsewhere but transferable to Bangalore) from Nambiar/ Poduval/ Menon/ Nair/ similar communities, having age below 25. Interested parents please contact parents of bridegroom with Horoscopic details to 2023krishna9191@gmail.com. Whatsapp number may please be given for further communication

SUDDHA JADHAGAM Nair 30/167 Makam, Pvt Job, Chennai, under going C.A Inter, Coimbatore settled. Subcaste nobar. Ph: 94434 77653.

EZHAVA GROOM Age 28yrs., Star-Aayilyam, UK Citizen BE / MBA Working, Seeks equally Educated & Working girl settled in UK only CNB only Hindus Contact – 9840260398.

NAIR PARENTS Chennai Own House seeks Educated Girl Employed or Unemployed for son 34/178 Chathayam B.E., MBA, well settled. 9884434362

TAMIL

CHRISTIAN PARENTS invite suitable proposals for son living in London, B.E., M.B.A. (U.K.), aged 45, working for a global firm, and also governing successful and growing family businesses in the U.K. and India with initiatives to expand to other countries. Please contact mother at selina@vineyardhills.in.

CHRISTIAN BORN Again 30/167, ME Kanyakumari District, Well settled family from Gulf Seeks suitable Bride. Contact: 9677037210

RC VELLALAR B.Tech. 38 /172 Proprietor Fitness Centre Seeks Qualified & Employed Bride. Cast No bar. Ph. 9840266692

CHRISTIAN NADAR, 34yrs/178cms, MBBS with dip in Cardiology Private service good looking lives in Nagercoil, Divorcee seeks same caste qualified Bride/Divorcee above 28yrs. Ct: 90039 83230.

INTERCASTE PARENTS (F-chettiar M-saiva Mudaliyar) Seeks Suitable Working Girl (Vegetarian) for their son Age 31(B.E)/Uthiram/178cm s/Fair/SWE,Contact 9710080772

HINDU KALLAR 1991 born 172cms sw engg 26 lac pa mnc in chennai seeks graduate bride ph-9443065803

SC AD 36/167 M.Tech HR Central Govt. divorcee no encumbrance seeks suitable bride Contact: 99525-98743, 9994640670

AGAMUDAYAR 29/176 B.E. 15L PA Seeks Good Looking Educated Affluent Bride from Good Family Ct: 9790934460

SC DEVENDRAKULA Vellalar Karthigai 27/164 BE JE Southern Rlws Seeks Suitable Girl. 9443764038

BRIDE WANTED for Doctor, Radiologist. Hindu Pillai BC, 30 tall fair affluent family, BC/MBC. Ct:9865167703

TAMIL

VANIYA CHETTIAR : 28/175, M.E, CTS, Eng, Chennai, Father Business, Elite Family , Seeks Bride Any Degree.– 9866285839

SAIVA PILLAI,34, 170 cms, Fair, Software Engineer (Worked in U.S) Divorced, No Children seeks Suitable Bride Ct: 7550356491

TAMIL HINDU(BC), MBA, Age – 39, 1st marrige. Good boy & Good fair the most beautiful honest Boy needs a Girl. I have full Consent to be a Groom and a Good Son in the Girls House Family. (CNB). Avoid Brokers. Kannan : 91235 89257

MUDALIAR AGE 32, March 1990,170 Cm,B.Tech,IT professional,12LPA, Rasi Thulam chithirai–3 Seeking Bride good looking Graduate Employed, Educated Family. Contact 9382617000.

HINDU NADAR, 38/185, M.Tech (IIT Madras: Microelectronics & VLSI Design), Principal Design Engineer (Chip Design) in an MNC in Bangalore, Eggetarian, Star: Kettai, seeks well educated, suitable bride (30–34 yrs). Caste No Bar. Ct: 9840117920.

HINDU REDDY 32/173 B.E., SWE Divorcee 20Lac pa CNB seeks suitable bride. CT:98943-87918, 94421-72774.

HINDU AD PR 31/175, B.Tech NIT Trichy, MBA IIM Bangalore, MNC-35L per annum. Seeks Bride. 9442181645.

TAMIL VISWAKARMA 39/170 fair Thiruvonam Rich/ CA/ MNC/ 70,000 Seeks Same Caste Bride 9486320982

HINDU, 38/ 162 cm, Journalist, 50,000 p.m. first Marriage, Own house in Chennai. Seeks suitable Bride from BC, MBC. Divorcee or young widow without Child. Phone: 93613 65640

MUDALIAR 29 165cm BE Avittam Govt job Australia seeks well educated slim bride . Ct Geetham 9884858014

RICH ARCOT Mudaliyar 28/ B.E.,Own (300 Buses), Wind Mills etc.,Seeks Rich Family Bride 7305491610

SAIVA PILLAI 34, 5ft 8inch, fair and handsome, BE (Telecom), Officer Indian Army Tech Branch, 20 lacs PA, son of retd army officer looking for affable and well educated girl. Equal and sub caste no bar. 9448307862.

VISWAKARMA (G.S) Uthiradam 42/168, Bachelor, Doctor, Principal in Pvt Medical college, Bangalore seeks suitable bride. Ct: 9480611093, 7349544114, 9448655053.

NAIDU 31/164cm ME Asst. Professor Chennai-Divorcee seeks suitable Bride Unmarried/ Divorces - no issue- Naidu/ Mudaliar/ pillai/ Reddiyar/ Chettiar pref. Contact : 94456 89306 / 94430 52596.

BRAHMIN 32/182cm BE, MBA MNC HR professional 8Lacs PA seeks suitable Brahmin Educated bride. contact: 7667724406/g.nisharth85@gmail.com

SAIVA MUDALIYAR Well Settled 41/165 M.Tech employed divorce seeks bride below 38 yrs. Contact: 7824940197

INTERCASTE PARENTS Krithigai 27/178 B.Sc MBA US Voice Sr. AR seeks suitable bride Caste nobar 9840388489

Naidu 39 Yrs. Software Eng 6 Lacs Divorce Looking for Bride 9965309141.

1984 AUG Born 168Cms, Advocate (Bank & Co.,) seeks Educated & Good Looking Bride Veg Only Ct: 9841298539

SC AD 29/B.E (EEE) Govt.Job [Canara Bank – Asst. Manager] 75,000p.m. Seeks Bride Ph.& Whatsapp:7397674461

REDDIYAR 32 Swathi,Thulam B.A IT 60,000pm Seeks any Deg Good Family No Expectation, Chennai: 9789015037

VANNIYAKULAKSHATRIYA 32 BE Mech Viruchigam Kettai Own IT Infrastructure Services well Setteled affluent family, Chennai seeks employed good family background bride. 6381023434

TAMIL

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THULUVA NAIYAKAR Pooradam 39/154 Wheatish DME & Ac Fridge Mech. Own House/Job. Seeks bride. Caste No Bar. Cont: 9940630864

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NADAR, 25, 168 cms, Architect, Bachelors in Architecture. Lives in Dubai. Father is a Professional. Mother is a Homemaker. Looking for a like minded and educated match from same community. Contact: 6366448345

KAMMA NAIDU, 26, 178 cms, Doctor, MBBS. Lives in Coimbatore. Father is a Doctor and owns a Hospital in Coimbatore. Looking for a suitable Doctor match. Contact: 6366448344

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MUDALIAR 36yr Makam B.com/MBA Employed. Seeks Employed/Business Grooms below 40yr. Ph: 9940469633

AGAMUDAYA THEVAR 40/165 MBA working USA Divorcee No kids, Seeks suitable well Employed Groom below age 45. CT: 93633 33297.

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NAIDU DIVORCEE No issues 1977 Slim, MNC Transfer Job, Caste no bar. Wanted Employed Groom. 9443344936

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Bending under load: Cattle are forced to carry up to 25 bags of graded sand on every trip.

Loading point: Bullock carts line up as they approach the shore.

Long haul: A trudge through water.

Mechanised work: An excavator fills tractors with sand at a site permitted by the government.

High road: Sand-laden carts finally take the Chennai-Kolkata highway.

Heavy vehicles likely to be allowed on Goraguntepalya flyover

However, multi-axle trucks carrying heavy loads will not be allowed; BBMP ropes in third-party agency to carry out a 'health survey' of all flyovers

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

After a gap of over five months, the authorities are likely to allow heavy vehicles, such as buses, trucks, and others, on the Goraguntepalya flyover (Peenya flyover). However, multi-axle trucks carrying heavy loads will not be allowed.

Chandra Kishen J.M. from the Civil Engineering Department of IISc., who is part of an expert committee, said, "Recently, we attended a meeting with board members of the NHAI. There, I had told them that heavy vehicles, such as buses and normal trucks, carrying legally allowed loads can be allowed on the flyover. However, trucks with excess loads and multi-axle trucks carrying heavy materials, such as granites and others, should not be allowed. An expert committee will decide on the way forward and give the necessary recommendations to the NHAI". In December 2021, the authorities barred vehicular movement on the flyover, after NHAI officials found safety issues with cables of two spans during a routine inspection. The NHAI had missed several deadlines to fix the problem and faced the wrath of motorists, who spent long hours in the traffic.

Ban on heavy vehicles has resulted in traffic congestion under the flyover. • K. MURALI KUMAR

After a long wait, in mid-February only light motor vehicles were allowed on the flyover. Ban on heavy vehicles on the flyover has resulted in traffic congestion under the flyover from Gorgutenaplaya till the Parle G toll gate.

Thousands of vehicles, including hundreds of inter-State and intra-State buses, use the road daily. In the night, the Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) and the other private buses take long hours to cross the stretch.

DCP West (traffic) Kuldeep Kumar R. Jain said, "Traffic police will allow the movement of heavy vehicles on the flyover after getting clearance from the NHAI officials. We have not received any written communication so far. We had banned the movement of heavy vehicles on the flyover considering the safety issues that has resulted in heavy traffic pressures on main lanes under the flyover. Everyday thousands of vehicle use Tumakuru Road stretch that also links industrial hubs and residential localities. Manning slow-moving traffic is difficult and we are managing by deploying more traffic police".

Recently, the traffic police had also asked the NHAI officials to rectify all non-functional streetlights on the flyover.

A "health survey" of all flyovers in the city

The city's civic body has roped in a third-party agency to carry out a "health survey" of all flyovers in the city. "We carried out this exercise for the first time in 2019. Since it has been three years, we have again ordered a survey of all flyovers. The agency will check for structural issues, safety, and other issues and submit a report, based on which any necessary action will be taken," said Ravindra P.N., Special Commissioner (Projects), BBMP.

The survey has been ordered after the Goraguntepalya flyover developed structural issues posing safety risk and waterlogging has been observed on Sirsi Circle flyover during the rain, sources said. "It is a periodic exercise that we need to do," a senior official said.

READ MORE IN-DEPTH CONTENT AT THE HINDU'S WEBSITE
www.thehindu.com

Text & Context

A weekday feature on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) which includes explainers, special articles and a quiz. In the latest issue (June 3, Friday), the following explainers are available:

- China's growing footprint in the Pacific Islands - https://bit.ly/tc_china_pic
- The Bihar government's caste-count - https://bit.ly/Bihar_CC

Spotlight

Long form articles from our regional editions

- How Lawrence Bishnoi fell on the wrong side of the law (Delhi edition) - https://bit.ly/delhi_bish
- Monsoon alert (Kerala edition) https://bit.ly/Kermon
- Jumbo death traps in the jungles (Tamil Nadu in focus) - https://bit.ly/TNjumbo
- Where hot dunes turned an education hub (Tamil Nadu in focus) - https://bit.ly/3zkggnN

You can use your smartphone's inbuilt features to access these articles. If it's an Android phone, use Google Lens to read and tap the url to access the article. If it's an iPhone, use Live Text to do the same.

Feeder services

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

BMTC has announced feeder services to Sir M. Visvesvaraya Terminal. A total of 10 bus routes will cover Chennasandra, Central Silk Board, Nagawara, Munekolalu which will cover Indiranagar, Hoodi, K.R. Puram, Koramangala, Madiwala, Domlur, Banaswadi, Kalyan Nagar, Subbainapalya, Thippasandra, JB Nagar, HAL and Marathahalli.

Fraudulent transactions worth crores in woman's bank account

Police probing several benami transactions

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The West Division Cyber Crime Police are probing a case where the bank account of a business woman was allegedly misused to make several benami transactions worth several crores of rupees, without her knowledge or consent.

Nisarga Gowda, a resident of Vijay Nagar who runs multiple businesses, alleged that she received a message two months ago one that her account had been credited with ₹4 crore. Next morning when she went to the bank to check, the bank officials reportedly said no such transactions had taken place and the message was probably a mistake. Ms. Gowda also did not pursue it further.

Multiple figures

However on May 29, when she checked the balance, she was shocked to find a sum of ₹1.96 crore as balance, while her account balance should have been ₹1.84 lakh.

Confused with the multiple balance figures, Ms. Gowda downloaded the balance statements from her account online, which again showed ₹1.96 crore as balance. She transferred ₹18 lakh from this account to her other accounts. The next day when she checked the balance, the remaining amount of ₹1.6 crore had been debited automatically without her consent. Instead the bank had been showing a negative balance of ₹30.3 lakh, asking her to pay up. Shocked by this, she contacted the bank for clarification, and the staff asked her to contact the head office. There were other transactions done without her consent. The bank has allegedly blocked her business account without giving her a reason.

The West Division Cyber Crime Police have booked a case against unidentified persons.

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Film producer among four arrested in cheating case

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The Rajajinagar police arrested four persons including the producer of a Kannada movie on the charges of cheating a city-based businessman promising sites at a cheaper rate.

The accused have been identified as Manjunath, Shiva Kumar, Gopal, and Chandrashekhar.

According to the police, Manjunath invested huge amount of money on a newly-released movie and incurred huge losses. In order to recover these losses, he along with his associates launched a real estate firm in Rajajinagar offering sites in and around the city at good locations.

The accused took ₹2 lakh advance amount from Pushpa Kumar after showing him a site belonging to someone else.

The accused started giving evasive response whenever Pushpa Kumar approached them for registration and other process. Suspecting something amiss, he approached the police and filed a complaint.

The police have taken the accused into custody for further investigations.

Man blackmails woman with private videos

Accused demands bitcoins as ransom

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

A 32-year-old software engineer working in a reputed IT firm filed a complaint with the Whitefield Cyber Crime police that a man was blackmailing her with private videos demanding ransom in the form of bitcoins.

Based on the complaint, the police have registered a case under Information Technology Act, 2000, and efforts are on to track down the accused identified as Dhanush Kumar. In her complaint, the victim said the accused contacted her on mobile phone and sent two links of her private videos.

The accused later called the victim on her phone and abused her and demanded ransom in the form of bitcoins. The accused allegedly also shared the video links with a male friend of the victim and threatened to share them with her family and friends if the ransom was not paid. The victim suspected the involvement of her male friend. The police are trying to track down Dhanush Kumar and also probing the link between him and the friend of the victim.

Metro to start an hour early today

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

Namma Metro services will start from 6 a.m, instead of 7 a.m. on June 5 on both Green and Purple lines. This is to facilitate the travel of candidates appearing for Civil Services (Preliminary) Examinations, 2022.

MUSIC • DANCE • DRAMA

SRI RAMA Lalitha Kala Mandira, BSK II Stage, Bangalore-560 070, Mob: 7760907939 Programme for June & July 2022 5th June Sunday, 5.30 p.m. Vivek Sadashivam- Vocal (Disciple of Sanjay Subrahmanyan), Mathur R. Srinidhi- Violin, H.S. Sudhindra- Mridanga Omkar Rao -Ghata, 18th June Saturday, 5.30 p.m. Soumyashri Rangan- Vocal, Anand Vishwanathan-Violin, H.S.Sudhindra & Govindarangan - (Double Mridanga), 3rd July, Sunday, 5-30 p.m., Palakkad Dr. R. Ramprasad -Vocal, Mathur R. Srinidhi – Violin, Akshy Anand- Mridanga,Omkar Rao - Ghata. All are welcome. G.V. Krishna Prasad, Hon.Secretary, Sri Rama Lalitha Kala Mandira.

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Timings
BENGALURU

SUNDAY, JUN. 05	
RISE 05:53	SET 18:44
RISE 10:31	SET 23:32
MONDAY, JUN. 06	
RISE 05:53	SET 18:44
RISE 11:21	SET 00:00
TUESDAY, JUN. 07	
RISE 05:53	SET 18:44
RISE 12:10	SET 00:12

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	33	24
Mysuru	33	21
Bengaluru	33	19

Bengaluru Today
29°C The weather will be slight warm but humid. Night will be pleasant. Few spells of moderate rain and thundershower is likely.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
31°C A slight warm but humid weahor to prevail. Night will be comfortable.Chances of rain and thundershower at some places.

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THE HINDU
DISCLAIMER: Readers are requested to verify and make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of an advertisement before responding to any published in this newspaper. THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., the Publisher & Owner of this newspaper, does not vouch for the authenticity of any advertisement or advertiser or for any of the advertiser's products and/or services. In no event can the Owner, Publisher, Printer, Editor, Directors, Employees of this newspaper/ company be held responsible/liable in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/or damages for advertisements in this newspaper.

Impact of cost escalation severe on agri, allied sectors

Karnataka Sugarcane Growers Association chairman demands that a special meeting of farmers and experts should be convened by CM

B.S. SATISH KUMAR
BENGALURU

The escalation of input costs is emerging as a new challenge for farm sector which has time and again reeled under distress in Karnataka. While several sectors are hit by inflation, impact on agriculture and allied sectors has been severe mainly because of "imperfect market", say experts.

Farmers are unable to sell their produce to government procurement centres due to inadequate quota fixed by the authorities. • FILE PHOTO

INFLATION IMPACT

For example, while mango farmers thought that they would get remunerative prices this time due to short supply marked by decrease in yield by over 50%, they were in for a shock when traders slashed the procurement prices by 75% of the prevailing level. Added to it, they rejected several consignments citing diseases associated with untimely rains that affected the fruit quality.

Similar is the case of thousands of farmers who grew ragi, but could not sell it to government procurement centres due to inadequate quota fixed by the authorities. Naveen, a farmer from Ramanagaram taluk, has spent over ₹30,000 to cultivate ragi on about 1.5 acres, felt the pinch of cost escalation when the mechanised harvest made a deep hole in his pocket, thanks to spiraling fuel prices. The rain too played a spoil sport as that reduced the yield and spoilt the quality of hay from ragi straw. Though he has managed to harvest about 8 quintals of ragi, the scenario was not encouraging. As against the MSP of ₹3,370 declared by the government, he could sell his produce only at ₹2,100 a quintal to a trader as the ragi procurement by the government had been suspended then. He blames his losses on sharp increase in production cost that mainly includes increase in land tilling charges that have shot up by about 30% and that of a few fertilisers which have gone up sharply, increase in sowing seed costs and labour charges. The scenario is more or less similar for cultivation of all the crops.

Karnataka Sugarcane Growers Association Chairman Kuruburu Shanthakumar points out that Fair and Remunerative Prices (FRP) for sugarcane have been increased by a mere ₹50 from ₹ 2,850 in the last two years. At the same time, just the harvesting and transport cost of sugarcane has increased by about ₹ 300 to 500 a tonne.

Coffee Planter K.B. Somanna from K. Badaga village of Kutta in Kodagu district says though there is slight increase in coffee prices now due to reduction in yield in Brazil, the benefit would not reach many growers as most of the coffee yield has already been sold. Even the present level of increase in coffee will not help get sizeable profits as there is a sharp rise in production and maintenance costs.

Agri economist and former chairman of Karnataka Agriculture Prices Commission Chairman Dr. T. N. Prakash Kammaradi points out that issues like increase in production cost are bound to affect the delicate economic balance in farm and allied sectors due to market imperfection as payment by consumers is not passed onto producers in sizeable quantum. Mr. Shanthakumar demands that a special meeting of farmers and experts should be convened by Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai to discuss ways and means of insulating farm sector from cost escalation and price-crash phenomenon.

"The government as well as stake holders have initiated some or other form of remedial measures to strengthen various sectors in the post COVID-19 period. But such an effort has not been made with respect to farm sector," he pointed out. He said that failure to take up remedial measure would not only push the sector into distress, but also affect food production.

Bengaluru Runners' jatre today

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

The first edition of 'Bengaluru Runners' Jatre' will be held in HSR Layout on June 5. The flag off of the first category is 5.30 a.m., while the last category is at 7.30 a.m. There will be restricted traffic movement on 17th cross, 24th main, 27th main, 7th cross, 13th cross, 19th main, 27th cross, 22nd cross, 14th cross, 18th cross, 9th main, 21st cross, and 5th main.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Corrigendum -2 to Tender Notice No. Y/E-29/2022-23/02 DATED 19.05.2022

The following corrections may please be noted and read by the tenderers. All other terms and conditions of tenders notification remains unchanged.

As per tender	Corrigendum -2
Tender Booklet uploaded.	Revised Tender Booklet uploaded duly updating necessary corrections

For further details please visit on: www.ireps.gov.in

Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer/G
Mysuru

S.W.Railways SWRRLY SWRRLY

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform general public that our client, **Sri. Mahesh N Vyas** S/o Sri. N.Vyas, And **Smt. Heena** w/o Sri. Mahesh N Vyas, Both are the absolute owner of flat bearing no. TF 304 in A Block of the residential apartment building Know as **"MAYITRI ENCLAVE"** at, 8th Main road, Mareenahalli lake side, 4th 'T' Block, jayanagar, Bengaluru-560041, had entered in to an agreement to sell on 29.11.2018 with sri Nagaraja and Bharathi .D And hee not come forward to registered the property till date, after several reminders and requests and also after issuing the legal notice the above said Nagaraj and Bharathi .D. have not come forward for registration or full fill the conditions of the sale agreement dated 29.11.2018 Hence our clients is cancelling the sale agreement entered between our clients and the above said persons if they don't come and register the schedule property with in **07 days (seven days)** failing which the agreement to sell dated 29.11.2018 is deemed to be cancelled and sale agreement amount will be forfeited, our clients will not take any responsibilities further.

Herein after the same shall not be binding on our Client in the future.

Shaji .T Verghese, Advocate
Legal i Advocates and solicitors
Call : 9845154053

Dated : 04/06/2022 Bangalore

FORM No.22
[See Regulation 37(1)]

Government of India
MINISTRY OF FINANCE
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL SERVICES (BANKING DIVISION)
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II
LIC Jeevan Mangal Building, 2nd Floor, No.4, Residency Road, Bengaluru-560 025.
Tel : 080-22244324, Fax : 080-22244325/6

SALE PROCLAMATION

(PROCLAMATION OF SALE UNDER RULES 48 to 51 AND 52[2] OF SECOND SCHEDULE TO THE INCOME TAX ACT, 1961 READ WITH THE RECOVERY OF DEBTS AND BANKRUPTCY ACT, 1993)

TRC No.286/2019 IN O.A.No.500/2017

Between :
Between : Punjab National Bank and M/s Hi-Tech Forge & Ors
To : **1. M/s Hi Tech Forge, Prop. Mr Harish N,** No. 39, H "C" Cross, Doreshanipalya, Bannerghatta Road, Bengaluru - 560076. **2. Mr Harish N, S/o Late Nagarajaiah,** Residing at No. 21, 2nd Main Road, Raghavendra Layout, Hosakerehalli, BSK 3rd Stage, Bengaluru - 560085. **3. Mrs Ramadevi, D/o Late Senthanan,** No. 16, Sir MV Layout, Near New Raghavendra Temple, Devarachikkanahalli, Bannerghatta Road, Bengaluru - 560076. **4. Mr T Gopinath,** No. 383, 22nd Main, AGS Layout, Arehalli Village, Uttarahalli Main, Bengaluru – 560061.

Whereas you have failed to pay the sum of **Rs. 2,90,54,250/- (Rupees Two Crore Ninety Lakh Fifty-Four Thousand Two Hundred and Fifty Only)** payable by you in respect of **Recovery Certificate No. TRC No. 286/2019 IN O.A. NO. 500/2017** by the Presiding Officer, Debt Recovery Tribunal Bangalore and the interest and costs as per certificate. And whereas the undersigned has ordered the sale of property mentioned in the Schedule below in satisfaction of the said Certificates.
And whereas there will be due there under a sum of **Rs. 2,90,54,250/-** plus further interest, costs and charges as on **25/11/2016** along with future interest till realization.
Notice is hereby given that in absence of any order of postponement, the said property shall be sold on **18 July 2022 between 11.00 AM to 11.30 AM** by e-auction and bidding shall take place through **"Online Electronic Bidding"** through the website : **http://drt.auctiontiger.net M/S e-Procurement Technologies Ltd, (Auction Tiger)** Ahmedabad **[Contact No. 9722778828 or 079-6813-6841,/ 55 / 51 or 079-6813-6800 Email Id Karnataka@auctiontiger.net, praveen.thevar@auctiontiger.net].** Contact person - **Mr Praveen Kumar Thevar - 9722778828.**
For further details contact **Mr. S R Madhukar,** Assistant General Manager, Punjab National Bank, SASTRA centre Bangalore East Circle, No.26-27, MG Road, Raheja Towers, 1 floor, Bangalore-560001 for ascertaining the details of the property and also for inspection of property, contact Mobile: 9632788227.
The sale will be of the property of the defendant No.2 above named as mentioned in the schedule below and the liabilities and claims attaching to the said property, so far as they have been ascertained, are those specified in the schedule against each lot.
The property will be put up for the sale in a single lot specified in the schedule. If the amount to be realized is satisfied by the sale of a portion of the property, the sale shall be immediately stopped with respect to the reminder. The sale also be stopped. If, before any lot is knocked down, the arrears mentioned in the said Certificate, interest costs [including cost of the sale] are tendered to the officer conducting the sale or proof is given to his satisfaction that the amount of such certificate, interest and costs have been paid to the undersigned.
No officer or other person, having any duty to perform in connection with sale, however, either directly or indirectly bid for, acquire or attempt to acquire any interest in the property sold. The sale shall be subject to the conditions prescribed in second schedule of the Income Tax Act, 1961 and the rules made there under and to the further following conditions.
The particulars specified in the annexed schedule have been stated to the best of the information of the undersigned, but the undersigned shall not be answerable for any error, mis-statement or omission in this proclamation.
1. The reserve price below which the property shall not be sold is **Rs. 1,12,16,000/- (One Crore Twelve Lakhs Sixteen Thousand Only).**
2. The amount by which the biddings are to be increased shall be **Rs.25,000/- (Rs. Twenty Five Thousand)** in the event of any dispute arising as to the amount of bid, or as to the bidder, the lot shall at once be again put up to auction.
3. The prospective bidders are advised to peruse the copies of the Title Deeds with the Bank and verify the latest encumbrance Certificate and other revenue / Municipal records to exercise due diligence and satisfy themselves on the title and encumbrances, if any, over the property.
4. The highest bidder shall be declared to be the purchaser of any lot provided that further that the amount bid him is not less than the reserve price. It shall be at discretion of the undersigned to decline/ accept the highest bid when the price offered appears so clearly inadequate as to make it inadvisable to do so.
5. For participating in E-auction, Ten percent EMD shall be deposited by the proposed bidder through RTGS/NEFT/directly into the Indian Bank Account No.6735242318, B/o Richmond Circle, Bangalore through IFSC CODE ID|BOOOR018 or by way of DD favoring Recovery officer-1, DRT-2 payable at Bangalore in the account of "Punjab National Bank RC No. 286/2019" and the intending bidders should submit the bid form duly filled along with copy of PAN Card, Address Proof and Identity Proof, Email Id, Mobile no. and in case of the company or any other document confirming representation/attorney of the company and the receipt/ counter file of such deposit/Demand Draft towards EMD in a sealed cover by **3.00 PM on 14 July 2022** to Recovery Officer 1 DRT 2 Bangalore. The sealed cover should be superscribed with Bid Form for participating in e auction sale in RC No 286/2019", Bid form may be collected from the Bank's office or the office of DRT. EMD deposited thereafter shall not be considered for participation in the e auction.
6. The successful bidder shall have to pay 25% of the sale proceeds after adjustment of EMD on being knocked down by said account as per detail mentioned in para 4 above. If the next day is holiday, or Sunday, then on next first office working day.
7. The purchaser shall deposit the balance **75% of the sale proceeds on or before 15th day from the date of sale of the property,** exclusive of such day, or if the 15th day be Sunday or other holiday, then on the first office day after the 15th day by prescribed mode as stated in para 4 above. In addition to the above the purchaser shall also deposit poundage fee with Recovery Officer 1 DRT 2 Bangalore @2% upto Rs.1000 and 1% on amounts above Rs.1000/- online through www.bhatatkosh.gov.in by selecting the following:

Ministry -> Department of Financial services -> Functional head -> service fees PAO code 006701, PAO, DFS, Nagpur and DDO code 208095, SO/DRT2 Bangalore.

A copy of the receipt is to be filed before this Authority for record purpose.
In case of default of payment within the prescribed period, the deposit, after defraying expenses of the sale, may, if the undersigned thinks fit, be forfeited to the Government and the defaulting purchaser shall forfeit all claims to the property or to any part of the sum for which it may subsequently be sold. The property shall be resold, after the issue of fresh proclamation of sale.
The property is being sold on **"AS IS WHERE IS AND AS IS WHATEVER IS BASIS".** The undersigned reserve the right to accept or reject any or all bids if found unreasonable or postpone the auction at any time without assigning any reason.

No of Lots	Description of the properties to be sold with names owners where the properties belonging to defaulter any other person as co-owner.	Revenue assessed upon the property or any part thereof.	Details of any of the encumbrance to which the property is liable	Claims, If any which have been put forward to the property and any other known particulars bearing on its nature and value.	Reserve Price	EMD
1	Scheduled property standing in the name of CD No.2 Mr Harish N, S/o Late Nagarajaiah,	Rs.12,000/- (Estimated)	Nill	Nill	Rs.1,12,16,000/- (One Crore Twelve Lakhs and Sixteen Thousand Only)	Rs.11,21,600/- (One Eleven Lakhs Twenty One Thousand Six Hundred Only)

Schedule of property : All that piece and parcel of immovable property situated at Municipal No. 37 (Old No. 21/3 and 21), House List No. 21, Khata No. 21/3 and 21/4, 2nd Main Road, BSK 3rd Stage, Ward No. 55, Hosakerehalli Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk, Bengaluru, measuring East to West 40 feet and North to South 30 feet, total area 1200 sq ft, and bounded on East: Property No. 13, West: Road, North: Property No. 22 and South: Property No. 20. The undersigned reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids if found unreasonable or postpone the auction at any time without assigning any reason.

E-AUCTION SCHEDULE

Date and Time of E-Auction	**18 July 2022 between 11:00 AM and 11:30 AM**
Last date and time for submission of bids/ tender submission/EMD	**14 July 2022 before 15:00 Hours**
Reserve Price	**Rs. 1,12,16,000/- One Crore Twelve Lakhs and Sixteen Thousand Only)**
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	**Rs. 11,21,600/- Rupees Eleven Lakhs Twenty One Thousand and Six Hundred Only)**
Bid increment amount	Rs.25,000/- (Rupees Twenty Five Thousand Only)

Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this the **3rd June 2022.**

Sd/-
Recovery Officer I,
Debts Recovery Tribunal -II, Bengaluru

TELANGANA STATE INDUSTRIAL INFRASTRUCTURE CORPORATION LIMITED
"Parishrama Bhavan", 6th Floor, 5-9-58/B, Basheerbagh, Hyderabad-500004, Telangana
Ph: 23237625/26, Fax: 040-23240285, Email: vcmd_tsiic@telangana.gov.in

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

Telangana State Industrial Infrastructure Corporation Limited (TSIIC), the nodal agency of Government of Telangana for development of industrial infrastructure in the State, invites proposals from reputed Developer firms with relevant experience for Development of IT Tower at Sy. No 125 at Kandlakoya Village, Medchal (M), Medchal Malkajgiri District on Joint Development Basis. The RFP can be downloaded from **www.tsiic.telangana.gov.in** from **04.06.2022**. Last date for submission of Proposals: **25.06.2022**, 16.00Hrs (IST).
R.O. No.: 199-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/12022-23 Sd/- VICE CHAIRMAN & MANAGING DIRECTOR

BANARAS LOCOMOTIVE WORKS, VARANASI - 221004

Tender Notice No. : PCE/BLW(ET)/Publish/2022-23/03 Office of the PCE Date : 30.05.2022

E-TENDER

Dy. Chief Engineer, Banaras Locomotive Works, Varanasi on behalf of the president of India invites "Open" Tender **through E-Tendering** from the contractors. **S. N. 1. Tender No. :** BLW-WAT-ET-005-22-23 **Name of work :** Zone work 2022-23 & 2023-24 under SSE/W/WT(NORTH & SOUTH) in BLW Varanasi **Tender Cost (Rs.) :** 43799788.70 **Earnest money (Rs.) :** 369000 **Tender Document Cost (Rs.) :** ..... **Time of completion :** 24 Month **Closing Date Time of Tender :** 20.06.22 at 15:00 pm. **Date of opening of Tender :** 20.06.22 at 15:30 pm. **S. N. 2. Tender No. :** BLW-WAT-ET-006-22-23 **Name of work :** Repair of Road to north side of workshops boundary wall by RCC road under SSE/W/WS **Tender Cost (Rs.) :** 16282460.45 **Earnest money (Rs.) :** 231400 **Tender Document Cost (Rs.) :** ..... **Time of completion :** 12 Month **Closing Date Time of Tender :** 20.06.22 at 15:00 pm **Date of opening of Tender :** 20.06.22 at 15:30 pm. **Special Notice :** To see the detailed terms & conditions of tender and for submission of tender, please visit website : **http:www.ireps.gov.in.**

Dy. Chief Engineer
PRO/BLW/C-03

/blwvaranasi Website: blw.indianrailways.gov.in

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

NOTIFICATION

PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES OF LOCAL PRODUCTS AT RAILWAY STATIONS

Applications are invited from the manufacturers of Channapatna Toys, specially from "GombegalaOoru" (toy town) of Karnataka, their Associations including Government agencies. Temporary functional stall with easy access to passengers will be made available to participants. Participants can sell toys at stations and on platforms also. The duration of the stall will be 15 days

i) First spell, period from 08/06/2022 to 23/06/2022
ii) Second spell, period from 24/06/2022 to 07/07/2022

Only one stall will be permitted at KSR Bengaluru Station. If more than one application is received, the same will be allotted on draw of lots. The registration fee is Rs.1000/- only (Non Refundable).

Applications may be submitted latest by **16-00 Hrs of 07-06-2022** in the office of Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, South Western Railway, Bengaluru – 560 023. It will be opened at **16-30 Hrs of 07-06-2022.**

Eligibility of applicants shall be as follows:

a) Holder of Artisan/Weaver ID card issued by Development Commissioner Handicrafts, Development Commissioner Handloom or by the requisite State/Central Government Authority.
b) Tribal artisans/weavers/craftsmen enrolled/registered with TRIFED.
c) Registered Self Help Groups
d) Micro Enterprises registered under MSME.
e) The vendor already operating/selecting for the stall at KSR Bengaluru station is not eligible to apply for second spell.

Interested persons can contact **Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, Bengaluru Division (9731666950) or Chief Commercial Inspector, Bengaluru (9731666968).**

For details log on **www.swr.indianrailways.gov.in**

PUB/126/NAAL/PRB/SWR/2022-23 Senior Divisional Commercial Manager/ Bengaluru

S.W.Railways sw_rly SWRRLY southwesternrailway SWRRLY

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY *Notice Inviting Tender*

Divisional Railway Manager (Commercial), Lucknow invites Open tender through E-tendering system on behalf of President of India for Installation and operation of Water Vending Machines at different Platforms of Gonda, Mankapur, Lakhimpur and Sitapur (Cluster-C and D) at 14 locations for the period of 5 year, payment of EMD and Tender Fees is paying through net banking or payment gateway.

Details of Tender notice No., PF No., Location, Stall No., Reserve Price, EMD and Cost of bid document.

Sr. No.	Tender Notice No.	Station	Location	
1	3-2022-LJN-WVM-CLUSTER-C	Gonda	PF No.-01	Near Gopal Krishna Gopal Stall of Lucknow Side
2				Near FFU of Gorakhpur Side
3			PF No.-2/3	Near FOB of Lucknow Side
4				Near RPF Post of Gorakhpur Side
5			PF No.-4/5	Near FOB of Lucknow Side
6				Near Last PP Shed Poll of Gorakhpur Side
7		Mankapur	PF No.-01	At the end PP Shelter (Existing Site) of PF 01
8			PF No.-2/3	Near OHE poll no. 629/15
9			PF No.-4/5	Near OHE poll no. MUR/1029
10	4-2022-LJN-WVM -CLUSTER-D	Lakhimpur	PF No.-01	Near PRS and Passenger Hall
11			PF No.-02	Near Water Hydrent of Mailani Side
12		Sitapur	PF No.-01	Near Divyang Toilet
13			PF No.-2/3	Near Water Hydrent of PF 03
14			PF No.-4/5	Infront of WVM Location of PF 03

Note: For Sl. No.-01 to Sl. No.-14 No. of WVM proposed-01. For Sl. No.-01 to Sl. No.-09 Minimum Reserve price per annum: ₹ 3,90,000/- and For Sl. No.-10 to Sl. No.-14 Minimum Reserve price per annum: ₹ 1,50,000/-

• Cost of Tender Documents (Non-Refundable): ₹ 5,000/- (Five thousand rupees only) • Earnest Money deposit (Refundable): For Cluster-C (Sr. No. 1 to 9) ₹ 1,95,000/- and Cluster-D (Sr. No. 10 to 14) ₹ 75,000/- • Date and Time of Opening of Tender: Up to 14:00 hrs. on 04-07-2022 (Monday) • Date and Time of Tender Closing: On 15:00 hrs. on 04-07-2022 (Monday) • Validity of Tender: 180 days • Period of Contract: 05 Years • Website address: **www.ireps.gov.in**

CPRO/Vanijya-70 Assistant Commercial Manager-II, Lucknow

About any passenger amenity complaint SMS on Mob. No.: 09794045955

Never travel on roof and foot boards.

KARNATAKA STATE MINERALS CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Regd. Office : TTMC 'A' Block 5th Floor, BMTC Building, KH Road, Shanthingar , Bengaluru-560027.
Phone: 080-22278813/14/15/16, Fax : 080-22213172
Website: https://ksmc.karnataka.gov.in

No. KSMCL/CIVIL/GCP/Land/182/VOL-2/2022-23/734 Date: 03.06.2022

e-TENDER INVITATION - 3rd Call

KSMCL invites e-Tender for selection of reputed Comprehensive Project Development Consultant (CPDC) for Mixed Development of Integrated Technology Park at B.Katihalli Industrial Area at Hassan.

Calendar of Event : (a) Last date for receipt of pre-bid queries: 13.06.2022, up to 3.00 PM. (b) Pre bid meeting : 15.06.2022 at 11:00 AM. (c) Last date and time for submission of tender document : 02.07.2022 up to 5.00 PM. (d) Date and time of opening of Technical Bid: 05.07.2022 at 11.00 AM (e) Earnest Money Deposit : Rs. 5.00 Lakh (Rupees Five Lakh Only).

The e-Tender document can be downloaded from e-procurement website: https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in Contact e-procurement help desk: No.080-46010000/ 68948777, email - support@eprochelpdesk.com for any support in uploading and registration.

Sd/-
General Manager (P)

DIPR/CP/788/AKAR/22-23

COVID-19 - DON'T SPREAD RUMOURS, ACT RESPONSIBLY, AVOID INFECTION-NOT THE INFECTED. 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing. Wear Mask. Maintain Hand Hygiene

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IN THE COURT OF THE 6TH ADDL. FAMILY COURT AT BANGALORE
MC No. 768/2021

Between: Smt. Deepthi Damodar ... Petitioner
And: Sri.Vijay Kumar G ... Respondent

1. Sri. Vijay Kumar G S/o Late V Govindaraju, aged 42 years, R/at Flat No. 7, No. 24, 6th A Cross, Vishwajeet Layout, Vignan Nagar, Bengaluru-560037.
Email:vijay.pacifiogroup@gmail.com

The Petitioner above named has filed the above case praying for the relief of Divorce U/s 13(1) (i-a) of the Hindu marriage Act -1955 in respect to against the respondent by name Vijay Kumar. You are here by warned to appear in court on **30.07.2022** at 11 AM. Either yourself or through your counsel failing which the court would be pleased to hear and determined the case as ex-parte in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of the court on 27-05-2022.

By order of the Court, Sheristedar, Family Court, Bengaluru.

Advocate for Petitioner:
B.S. RAGHUPRASAD
No. 11/1, 1st Floor, PT. Street, Basavanagudi, Bengaluru-560004.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My clients are negotiating to purchase, property mentioned in the schedule hereunder from the legal heirs of Late Syed Afham Raza, since deceased , hence, from its Present Co-owners **Mrs. Syeda Rasheeda Banu w/o late Syed Afham Raza, Mr.Syed Dayan Raza, Mr.Syed Fannan Raza, Mrs. Hashemi Raza Syeda , Mrs. Syeda Fathemeh Raza, Mrs. Syeda Saleeqeh Zahra Raza and Mr.Syed Hannan Raza, all children of late Syed Afham Raza , all of them being jointly represented by their Registered General Power of Attorney Holder Mr.Syed Mannan Raza s/o late Syed Afham Raza.**

If any individual/s or institution/s having any claims title or interest or subsisting charges over the same , it shall be lodged within 10(Ten) days from the date of this notice with documentary evidence with the undersigned.

SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY

All the piece and parcel of Residential **Property bearing BDA Site No.490, Present Municipal No.490/490, 2nd Stage , 9th Block, Nagarabhavi, situated in the layout formed by BDA, Presently within the jurisdiction of BBMP WARD No.73, Bangalore City.**

Measuring : East to West : 12.15 Meters North to South : 18.60 Meters Totally measuring : 225.79 sq. Meters

And bounded on : East by: Site No.491 West by: Site No. 489 North : Road South by : Site No.499

S. ANANTHA RAMA REDDY, Advocate & Consultant,
No.12, 3rd Floor, 10th Cross (Opp.St.-Martha s Hospital) Cubbonpet, Bangalore-560002.
Mail id-anantharedy2006@gmail.com | Mobile : 9845049944

Place: Bangalore Dated: 05-06-2022

UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES, RAICHUR
Office of the Registrar, Lingasugur road, UAS Raichur - 584 104, Karnataka, Telephone: 08532-220157, Fax: 08532-220360

No: R/UASR/Rectt./2022-23/1478 Dated: 02.06.2022

ADVERTISEMENT

Applications are invited from the eligible candidates for various vacant posts of Teachers / Scientists in UAS, Raichur. The complete details is accessible from the official website (http://www.uasraichur.edu.in) of UAS, Raichur. Last date for submission of application for the posts of Teachers is **30.06.2022 at 5.00 PM.**

Sd/- Registrar
UAS Raichur

DIP/Raichur/113/MC&A/2022-23

AFD CITIIS

PONDICHERRY MUNICIPALITY, PUDUCHERRY

No.01/PM/EE/DB(P)/2022-23 **PRESS NOTICE FOR e-TENDER** Dt.04.06.2022

On behalf of the Pondicherry Municipal Council, e-tender is invited for the following work from the eligible contractors.

Sl. No.	Tender ref. No/Tender ID	Name of Work	Cost put to tender (in Rs.)	Earnest Money Deposit (in Rs.)	e-tender Processing fee (in Rs.)	Period	Eligibility of Contractor
1	PM/EE/ e-tender/01/ 2022-23 2022_DLA _10445_1	DEVELOPMENT AND IMPROVEMENT OF COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURES AT LOW INCOME SETTLEMENT IN PONDICHERRY MUNICIPALITY, PUDUCHERRY. (Package 6)	14,47,01,946/- (inclusive of GST)	24,47,019/-	1500 + 5% GST	12 months (including monsoon period)	As per NIT

i. Availability of NIT : from **10.00 a.m. on 07.06.2022 to 3.30 p.m. on 21.06.2022**
ii. Pre-bid meeting : **13.06.2022 at 4.00 p.m.**
iii. Closing time for submission of e-tender : **21.06.2022 up to 3.30 p.m.**
iv. Date & time of opening of tender : **21.06.2022 at 4.00 p.m.**

For further details please refer to the **Website:https://pudutenders.gov.in**

COMMISSIONER
PONDICHERRY MUNICIPALITY

No.088/DIP/AD(Press)/2022-23

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MARANG GOMKE JAIPAL SINGH MUNDA

OVERSEAS SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME

For Academic Session 2022-23

1. Expanded focus of the scholarship to include SC, OBC and Minority along with ST students
2. Pursue Master's and M Phil programmes in 31 disciplines
3. Top 110 universities in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
4. Fully funded scholarship for a maximum of 25 students
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Government of Jharkhand partners with the FCDO - UK Government to launch a joint Chevening Marang Gomke Overseas Scholarship for upto 5 students every year

Last date for submission of application: 25th June 2022

Shri Hemant Soren
Hon'ble Chief Minister, Jharkhand

Applications are now open

For more details:- mgos.jharkhand.gov.in

PR NO. 270853 IPRD (22-23) D

Department of Scheduled Tribe, Scheduled Caste, Minority and Backward Class Welfare, Government of Jharkhand

Omicron BA.2 continues to be dominant variant of concern

This has not translated to a huge spike in COVID cases in State unlike other places

AFSHAN YASMEEN
BENGALURU

Although a fourth wave of COVID-19 had been predicted in the last week of May or first week of June, the situation so far has been good in Karnataka. The latest genome sequencing data of SARS-CoV-2 in the State has not shown emergence of any new variants and the dominant variant of concern (VoC) continues to be Omicron BA.2 till May end.

According to genome sequencing data from the State Health Department, the presence of Omicron BA.2 that was detected in 87% of the sequenced samples in the first week of February has increased to 96.5% in May end.

Of the 1,647 samples sequenced in May, a total of 1,645 were Omicron infected. This included 1,587 (96.5%) samples infected with Omicron BA.2 and 58 that were infected with Omicron B.1.1.529. Only two samples had Delta and its sub-lineages.

During March and April, of the 2,364 COVID samples were sequenced. Of these, 2,162 (92.4%) were found to be infected with Omicron BA.2 variant. In February, 1,936 (89.8%) of the 2,155 samples sequenced had Omicron BA.2 variant.

With a slight increase in the number of new cases in the last few days, there has been a marginal rise in the week-on-week caseload too. From 908 cases reported in the week prior to May 26, the number has increased to 1,338 in the week prior to June 2. However, no significant increase in clusters or hospital admissions has been noted during this period in the State.

A child getting a COVID test done in Bengaluru. • FILE PHOTO

■ From 908 cases reported in the week prior to May 26, the number has increased to 1,338 in the week prior to June 2. However, no significant rise in clusters or hospital admissions has been noted during this period in the State.

Of the total 2,260 active cases in the State as of June 4, only nine patients have been admitted in hospitals. And all of them have occupied general beds in government hospitals.

State Health Commissioner Randeep D. told *The Hindu* that the rise in BA.2 variant had not translated into a huge spike of COVID cases in Karnataka, unlike in some countries. "Although this variant continues to be transmissible, the virulence has subsided both because of natural immunity and vaccine induced immunity," he said.

Standard protocol

"Besides, the State now has a standardised treatment protocol for symptomatic COVID-19 patients.

This has helped in both in-patient and out-patient care. A combination of these factors has ensured that although cases are slightly rising, the number of hospitalisations and deaths are minimal. However, the State has continued a vigilant approach in COVID surveillance," the commissioner said.

Pointing out that a few family clusters were being reported only in Bengaluru, he said the vulnerable population including unvaccinated children and those with comorbidities continue to be at risk. It is essential for people to scrupulously follow COVID-19 mask usage and avoid crowding, the Commissioner added.

C.N. Manjunath, member of the State's Clinical Experts Committee, said there is always a gap of four to six weeks between a surge in other States and Karnataka. "Although other States have been seeing a surge in cases for the past few weeks, the situation is holding on in Karnataka as of now. But we have to watch for another three-four weeks. Unvaccinated children and those who have not taken the booster dose should get vaccinated now," Dr. Manjunath added.

IISc scientists report miniproteins that can fight COVID-19 viruses

'Instead of the viruses attaching to the cell and going inside, they clump together'

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

The scientists at Indian Institute of Science (IISc) have reported a new class of artificial peptides or miniproteins (molecules), which they hope will fight COVID-19 by rendering viruses inactive.

While blocking the entry of certain viruses into the cells, they will also clump the virus particles together to reduce the infection levels.

While the trials on hamsters have shown good results, the researchers are planning to bring out anti-viral drugs that can hopefully fight COVID-19 and also test for applications in the field of oncology further.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Jayanta Chatterjee, Associate Professor in the Molecular Biophysics Unit, IISc and also the lead author of the study, published in *Nature Chemical Biology*, explained the mechanism in layman terms thus: "Typically, a drug molecule binds to one protein and in most cases, they stay attached for some time, and then dissociate. These miniproteins which are helical, hairpin-shaped peptides, are each capable of pairing up with another of its kind, forming what is known as a dimer. These bundles have two identical faces bound by high affinity. It is extremely difficult to denature them and when they bind to the target, they also dimerise these targets. This allows one to develop a completely new mechanism of the drugs."

Researchers at the IISc are planning to bring out anti-viral drugs for COVID.

He further said, "The part which is engaged in binding to the cells is nullified. So instead of the virus attaching to the cell and going inside, the viruses clump together. This is not something that antibodies typically do". He added that this could help against several viruses and could also help in the field of oncology where there is no rapid mutation. The team has applied for a patent currently.

During the study, a new approach wherein miniproteins can bind to and block the protein spike on the surface of SARS-CoV-2 virus, was explored by the scientists. To test their hypothesis, they used a miniprotein called SIH-5 to target the interaction between the spike (S) protein of virus and ACE2 protein in human cells.

"The S protein is a trimer - a complex of three identical polypeptides. Each polypeptide contains a Receptor Binding Domain (RBD) that binds to the ACE2 receptor on the host cell surface. This interaction facilitates viral entry into the cell," said a press release from IISc.

"The SIH-5 miniprotein was designed to block the binding of the RBD to human ACE2. When a SIH-5 dimer encountered an S protein, one of its faces bound tightly to one of the three RBDs on the S protein trimer, and the other face bound to an RBD from a different S protein. This 'cross-linking' allowed the miniprotein to block both S proteins at the same time," the release further said.

To test effect of SIH-5 on COVID-19, when hamsters were administered the miniproteins and exposed to the virus at the lab of Raghavan Varadarajan, Professor, Molecular Biology Unit of IISc, it was observed that there was no weight loss, reduced viral load and lesser lung damage.

"We are planning on talking to pharmaceutical companies and maybe conduct clinical trials on human beings before releasing it as an antiviral drug", said Somnath Dutta, Assistant Professor at MBU and one of the corresponding authors of the study.

Programmes to mark World Environment Day today

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

Various awareness programmes have been organised to mark World Environment Day. The programmes by the Department of Forest, Ecology, Environment, Government of Karnataka, in association with the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) will be held on Sunday at Jnana Jyothi Auditorium, Central College campus, Bangalore University, from 10 a.m.

State sees 222 new cases

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Karnataka on Saturday saw 222 new infections taking the total number of cases to 39,53,058. With this the day's Test Positivity Rate touched 0.93% and the weekly TPR touched 1.32%.

Of the new cases, 210 have been reported from Bengaluru Urban. With zero deaths, the State's toll remained 40,065. As many as 191 persons were discharged on Saturday.

INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CHANGE
Dr. V.K.R.V. Rao Road, Nagarabhavi P.O. Bengaluru-560 072. www.isec.ac.in
Date: June 5, 2022
PROFESSOR & ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
Applications are invited from the eligible candidates for one post each of Professor and Associate Professor on short-term contractual basis in Agricultural Development and Rural Transformation Centre in the Institute for Social and Economic Change, Nagarabhavi, Bengaluru. Detailed **Advertisement, application form, API Score, Excel Sheet can be downloaded from www.isec.ac.in. The last date for receiving applications is July 4, 2022 by 5.00 p.m.** Registrar
ISEC-2205

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN:U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No:SEE/Tn(M)/BMAZ(N)/AEE(C)/2022-23/2295-97 Date: 04.06.2022
Brief Tender Notification (Call-2)
(e-Procurement mode only)
KPTCL invites bids from the eligible bidders to execute One No. of civil work, under the jurisdiction of the Superintending Engineer(Ele), Transmission (Maint), BMAZ North Circle, KPTCL, Bengaluru, invited through **"e-Procurement"** mode. The detailed tender notification regarding details of works, general conditions of contract, NIT, Instructions to Tenderers (ITT), EMD, SD, etc., can be obtained by website **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in or https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** on hyperlink **"e-Procurement-KPTCL"** on or after **07.06.2022.** Other details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned during office hours.
Sd/- Superintending Engineer, Ele.,Trans(Maint), BMAZ (North), Ground Floor, KPTCL, Office Complex, A.R. Circle, Bengaluru-09, Phone: 080-22386686/85.

TAMIL NADU CIVIL SUPPLIES CORPORATION
HEAD OFFICE, CHENNAI - 600 010.
NOTICE INVITING e -TENDER (SHORT TERM)
e-tenders are invited from the eligible contractors for Providing covered shed with galvalume sheet roofing to existing RCC Plinth (CAP) of TNCSC owned storage points at Adavathur and Irungalur in Trichy District and Pillayarpatti in Thanjavur District.
e-Tender Notice No :- CED5 /013906 /2022 dt. 03 .06.2022.
Last date and time for Online Submission : 16.06 .2022 up to 2.00 P.M
Downloading by Free of Cost : From 07.06.2022 to 16.06.2022 up to 2.00 P.M
Last date for receiving physical document : 17.06 .2022 up to 2.00 P.M (E.M.D only)
Date of Opening of Online tender : 17.06 .2022 at 2.30P.M
For further details please visit website : **www.tntenders.gov.in**
DIPR/2656/TENDER/2022 **Managing Director**
'செலவை குறை, வருவாயை பெருக்கு, சமுதாய பங்கு, சரியாக பயன்படுத்து.'

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, Sarvagnanagara Division, 7th Floor, P.U. Building, M.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560001.
No: EE/SGN/E.Proc/Tend/04/2022-23 Date: 04-06-2022
NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)
(Two Cover System) (Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only)
The Executive Engineer (Sarvagnanagara Division), East Zone, BBMP, invites tenders from eligible Contractors registered in BBMP / KPWD / CPWD / Railways / MES / National Highway or any State Government Organization for the construction of works detailed below.
(Standard Tender Document - KW4)

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Approximate Value of Work (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD Amount (in Rs.)
1	Augmentation of Water Supply through Borewells, Network of Pipe Lines and Ground Water Recahrgee Facilities in Ward No. 23, 24, 30, 27, 28, 29, 49, 59 in Sarvagnanagar Constituency **(No. of Works 01) - Package-1**	150.00	225000/-

Calendar of Events: 1) The tender documents may be downloaded from the GOK e-Procurement Portal Website: **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in from 06-06-2022. 2)** Pre Bid Meeting will be held on **07-06-2022 at 11.30 AM in the Office of the Chief Engineer, 18th Floor, Public Utility Building, M.G. Road, BBMP. 3)** Last Date for Uploading the filled Tender Document is **15-06-2022 upto 4.00 PM. 4)** Date of Opening of Tenders on **16-06-2022 at 4.30 PM (if possible or next working day)** Further details can be had from the above office.
Sd/- Executive Engineer, Sarvagnanagara Division, BBMP.
PAY DEVELOPMENT CHARGES, HELP TO DEVELOP BENGALURU
COVID-19. DO NOT PANIC, BE AWARE
Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

KARNATAKA STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
49, Parisara Bhavana, Church Street, Bengaluru- 560 001
Ph : 080-2558 1383 / 2558 9112 Fax : 080-2558 6321
Email : ho@kspcb.gov.in Website : www.kspcb.karnataka.gov.in
No.PCB/96/SEO/MINES/EPH/2022-23/1700 Dated: 04.06.2022
ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEARING NOTIFICATION
The Hutti Gold Mines Company Limited, has proposed to undertake Quarrying of Ordinary Sand from Bedawatti Sand Block in Krishna River Bed with capacity 30070 TPA over an area 16-00 acres at Sy.Nos. 14, 15, 55, 60, 65 to 71, Bedawatti Village, Kukkanur Taluk, Koppal District. The project proponent has to obtain Environmental Clearance from SEIAA, Government of Karnataka, as per the EIA Notification dated 14.09.2006 (as amended on 01.12.2009), and is required to go through Environmental Public Hearing. As per the SEIAA, Government of Karnataka, Terms of Reference letter (ToR) No. SEIAA 431 MIN 2021 dated: 06-12-2021 and request of the project proponent in letter received at Board Office dated 24.01.2022, the Environmental Public Hearing is being conducted by the Board.
The details of the project are as follows:

1.	**Name of the Company & Address: The Hutti Gold Mines Company Limited, 3rd Floor, KHB Shopping Complex, National Games Village, Koramangala, Bangalore- 560047**
2.	**Proposed Location of Quarry: Sy.Nos. 14, 15, 55, 60, 65 to 71, Bedawatti Village, Kukkanur Taluk, Koppal District, Karnataka.**
3.	**Details of proposed activity: Quarrying of Ordinary Sand of capacity 30070 TPA**
4.	**Pollution control measures proposed:** Provided dustbins for the disposal of domestic waste generated during the operations of sand mining activities. Regular sprinkling of water on haul and access roads. Regular maintenance of all equipment to minimize particulate matter and gaseous emissions from diesel engines. Plantation of thick greenbelt is provided around lease area boundary. The green belt will be provided within and around the plant to control fugitive emission.
5.	**Date, time and venue of public hearing: 05.07.2022 (Tuesday) at 03:00 PM at Sy.Nos. 14, 15, 55, 60, 65 to 71, Bedawatti Village, Kukkanur Taluk, Koppal District, Karnataka.**
6.	**Places of availability of project documents as per EIA Notification, which is kept open to public are:** (a) Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Koppal District (b) Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Panchayat, Koppal (c) District Industries Centre, Koppal (d) Taluk Panchayath, Kukkanur (e) Tahsildar Office Koppal. (f) Village Panchayath Office, Bedawatti (g) Regional Office, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, Koppal (h) SEIAA, Karnataka (Ecology and Environment), Department of Forest, Ecology and Environment, Government of Karnataka, Room No. 706, 7th Floor, 4th Gate, MS Building, Bengaluru – 560 001 (i) **HELP DESK**, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, Ground Floor, No.49, Parisara Bhavan, Church Street, Bengaluru – 560 001

NOTE: Suggestions, views, comments and objections of interested bonafide residents, environmental groups and others located at project site and likely to be affected by the proposed project are invited within 30 days from the date of publication of this Notification. They can also make oral/written/E-Mail suggestions to the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board/Chairman, Environmental Public Hearing Committee (Deputy Commissioner, Koppal District, Koppal). Interested public can participate in the Public Hearing at the above place. For details please visit our Website: **kspcb.karnataka.gov.in.**
Sd/- Member Secretary
AVOID USE OF PLASTICS, BE ECO-FRIENDLY

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(SHARAVATHY VALLEY HYDRO-ELECTRIC PROJECT)
CIN: U85110KA1970SGC001919
ABSTRACT TENDER NOTIFICATION
Bids in two covers are invited through 'e'procurement portal for Goods (Website: **URL:https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in**) on FOR destination basis from the regular manufacturer/ authorized dealers/ regular supplier with proven track record of having experience in supply of similar materials earlier. **1) KPCL/SGS/MRP68/G4/21-22/3078/CALL-3 dtd: 25.05.2022** Station Battery and Battery Charger. **EMD: Rs. 7,900/-. 2) KPCL/2021-22/IND4964/CALL-3 dtd: 25.05.2022** Supply of 4 Nos. UHF 2 way Radio and 3 Nos. VHF handset. **EMD: Rs. 2,130/-. 3) KPCL/BHADRA/MRP62/G3/21-22/4487/CALL-3 dtd: 25.05.2022** Supply of 12KV Vacuum Circuit breaker for Linganamakki Powerhouse. **EMD: Rs. 1,180/-. 4) KPCL/SGS/MRP66/G10/21-22/3108/CALL-3 dtd: 25.05.2022** Isolator limit switch, MOM box for isolator, Earth switch isolator, etc. **EMD: Rs. 84,000/-. 5) KPCL/SGS/MRP65/G7/21-22/3082A/CALL-3 dtd: 26.05.2022** Neutral grounding transformer, HV NCT, 245kV Voltage Transformer Neutral CTS etc. **EMD: Rs. 34,500/- 6) KPCL/SGS/MRP65/G9/21-22/3080/CALL-3 dtd: 26.05.2022** Transformer winding & Oil Temp. Indicators, Oil & Water flow indicators. **EMD: Rs. 17,750/-. 7) KPCL/2021-22/IND4692/CALL-3 dtd: 26.05.2022** 5HP dewatering pump, space heaters, rubber hand gloves. **EMD: Rs. 4,030/-. 8) KPCL/GERUSOPPA/MRP69/G10/4219/CALL-3 dtd: 26.05.2022** Digital Ammeter, Modbus ASCII/RTU to Modbus TCP, Stabilizing Resistor. **EMD: Rs. 2,200/-. 9) KPCL/GERUSOPPA/MRP68/G7/21-22/4216/CALL-3 dtd: 26.05.2022** Buchholz Relay and Pressure Relief Device. **EMD: Rs. 900/-. 10) KPCL/GERUSOPPA/MRP59/G5/21-22/4222/CALL-3 dtd: 26.05.2022** Auxiliary PT and Auxiliary CTs. **EMD: Rs. 1,540/-. 11) KPCL/ GERUSOPPA/MRP69/G9/21-22/4224/CALL-3 dtd: 26.05.2022** Relays like GT overall diff relay, trip relay, Resistor for trip relay. **EMD: Rs. 2,700/-.** Last date and time for receipt of tenders: For Sl. No. 1 to 4: **10.06.2022 up to 16.30 Hrs.** & Sl. No. 5 to 11: **13.06.2022 up to 16.30 Hrs.** All relevant details are available in the above mentioned e-portal. Further details can be had from the **Executive Engineer (MSP)J,** KPCL, Jogfalls-577435, Dist. Shivamogga. Ph: 08186-244728. Mobile: 94495 98847.

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
No.49, 4th & 5th Floor, East Wing, Khanija Bhavan, Race Course Road, Bengaluru – 560001.
Phone No. 080-22265383 Website: www.kiadb.in
email: cdoce1@kiadb.in or jdtp@kiadb.in
No: KIADB/JDTP/CN/25320/3657/2022-23 Date: 04-06-2022
PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT
KIADB has obtained Environmental Clearance for Adinarayana Hosahalli Industrial Area Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District, Karnataka.. The same are available in the following websites.

Sl. No.	Name of the Industrial Areas	Environmental Clearance Obtained from SEIAA
1	Adinarayana Hosahalli Industrial Area Doddaballapura Taluk Bengaluru Rural District, Karnataka. Extent 193.33 Acres,	'SEIAA' https://seiaa.karnataka.gov.in OR http://environmentlclerance.nic.in

Place: Bengaluru
Date: 04-06-2022
Sd/-
Chief Engineer-1
KIADB, Bengaluru
DIPR/CP/788/AKAR/22-23
COVID-19 - DON'T SPREAD RUMOURS. ACT RESPONSIBLY, AVOID INFECTION-NOT THE INFECTED.
Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

City Municipal Council, Chikkamagaluru
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಸಿಎಂಸಿ/ಸಿಕೆಎಂ/ನನಿಕಾ/ಸಿ.ಆರ್./01/2022–23 ದಿನಾಂಕ:03.06.2022
e-Procurement Re Tender Notice
Tender is invited in two cover system subject to conditions from Civil Contractors of eligible class registered with PWD for undertaking the below mentioned works.
Sl.No. 1. Details of the Work: DMA/2021-22/OW/WORK_INDENT130149/CALL-2 **Approx. Amount(Rs. in lakhs):** 76.50 **E.M.D.(in Rs.):** 1,53,000.00
Sl.No. 2. Details of the Work: DMA/2021-22/OW/WORK_INDENT130076/CALL-2 **Approx. Amount(Rs. in lakhs):** 69.50 **E.M.D.(in Rs.):** 1,39,000.00
Cost of Tender Form – As per e-procurement, Time Period – 06 Months (Excluding Rainy Season)
1. Last date for submission of Tender in e-procurement: 18.06.2022 up to 16.00 Hrs. **2**. Date of opening Technical Bid: 20.06.2022 at 11.00 Hrs. **3**. Date of opening Financial Bid: 23.06.2022 at 11.00 Hrs.
Further details can be obtained during working hours of this office and from https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in If there are any changes, they will be published only in e-procurement and will not be published in newspapers.
Sd/-Sri.Varasiddhi Venugopal, President, City Municipal Council, Chikkamagaluru.
Sd/-Smt.C.H.Umadevi Krishnappa, Vice President, City Municipal Council, Chikkamagaluru.
Sd/- B.C. Basavaraju, K.M.A.S, Commissioner, City Municipal Council, Chikkamagaluru.
DIPR/ckm/No.47/mca/22-23/351

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ.
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಅಲ್ಪಸಂಖ್ಯಾತರ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ.
44, ಎ ಬ್ಲಾಕ್, 2ನೇ ಮಹಡಿ, ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಡಳಿತ ಭವನ, ಕರೂರು ಕ್ರಾಸ್, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ.
E-mail:domdvg1@gmail.com, ದೂ. ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 08192–250022
ಸಂ.ಜಿ.ಅ.ಸಂ.ಕ/ಇ/ಹೊ.ಸಂ.ಸ್ಪಂದಿ/ಟೆಂಡರ್/ಸಿಆರ್–01/2021–22 ದಿ: 04.06.2022
ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
2022–23ನೇ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಅಲ್ಪಸಂಖ್ಯಾತರ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಿಂದ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಹಿಸುತ್ತಿರುವ ಮುಖ್ಯ ನಂತರದ ಬಾಲಕ/ಬಾಲಕಿಯರ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿ ನಿಲಯಗಳು/ಮೋರಾರ್ಜಿ ದೇಸಾಯಿ ವಸತಿ ಶಾಲೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಖಾಲಿ ಇರುವ ಅಡುಗೆಯವರು, ಅಡುಗೆ ಸಹಾಯಕರು ಮತ್ತು ರಾತ್ರಿ ಕಾವಲುಗಾರರು, ಸ್ಪರ್ಶಾ ಸ್ಪಂದಿ, ಗ್ರೂಪ್ 'ಡಿ' ಸ್ಪಂದಿ, ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕಂಪ್ಯೂಟರ್ ಆಪರೇಟರ್, ಗ್ರೂಪ್ 'ಡಿ' ಸ್ಪಂದಿ, ಪಾಪರ ಜಾಲಾರು ಮತ್ತು ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ/ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರದಲ್ಲಿ ಖಾಲಿ ಇರುವ ಡಾಟಾ ಎಂಟ್ರಿ ಆಪರೇಟರ್, ಗ್ರೂಪ್ 'ಡಿ' ಜವಾನರು/ಸ್ಪಂದಿಗಳ ಸೇವೆಯನ್ನು ಹೊರಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ವಿಜ್ಞಿನ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಸ್ಪಂದಿಗಳನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯಲು ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.
ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ಮತ್ತು ದಿನಾಂಕ: ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಜಿಅಕಲ್ಯಾ–ದಾ/ಹೊ.ಸ್ಪಂದಿ.ಟೆಂಡರ್/ಸಿಆರ್–01/2021–22. ದಿನಾಂಕ: 04.06.2022 (2) ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗೆ ಇಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ:– ರೂ. 2,03,44,896/–. (3) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಫಾರಂ ಅಪ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಲು ಪ್ರಾರಂಭಿಸುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 04.06.2022. (4) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಭೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 06.06.2022 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ. ಸ್ಥಳ:– ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು, ಅಲ್ಪಸಂಖ್ಯಾತರ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ. (5) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ವಿವಾದಗಳ/ಸ್ಪಷ್ಟೀಕರಣ ಕೇಳುವ ಅಂತಿಮ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 08.06.2022 (6) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಫಾರಂ ಅಪ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 11.06.2022 (7) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ಡುಗಳ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 13.06.2022ರ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ. ಸ್ಥಳ:– ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು, ಅಲ್ಪಸಂಖ್ಯಾತರ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ. (8) ಹಣಕಾಸಿನ ಬಿಡ್ಡುಗಳನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 15.06.2022ರ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ. ಸ್ಥಳ:– ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಅಲ್ಪಸಂಖ್ಯಾತರ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ. (9) ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನೊಂದಿಗೆ ಪಾವತಿಸಬೇಕಾದ ಇಂಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ:– ರೂ. 3,05,174/–. (10) ವ್ಯವಹರಿಸಬೇಕಾದ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ ಹಾಗೂ ವಿಳಾಸ:– ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು, ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಅಲ್ಪಸಂಖ್ಯಾತರ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಹೊಸ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಛೇರಿ ಆವರಣ, ಕರೂರು ಕ್ರಿಸ್ಟಿಯಾ ಪ್ರವೇಶ ದ್ವಾರ, ಸಂ44. 2ನೇ ಮಹಡಿ. ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ–577006 ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 08192–250022 ಸದರಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಳನ್ನು http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in ಅಥವಾ ಕಛೇರಿ ಕೆಲಸದ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 08192–250022ನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಲು ಕೋರಿದೆ.
ಜಾಜಾಇ/ಟೆಂಡರ್/086 ಸಹಿ/–ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು,
2022–23 ಅಲ್ಪಸಂಖ್ಯಾತರ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ.

Demands to revert to old textbooks persist despite CM's assurance

Govt. has in concrete terms only agreed to re-edit the lesson on Basaveshwara

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai's statement on Friday night on the revised school textbooks – that the government had an "open mind" on further revisions – does not appear to have stemmed the protests by various sections and the demand that the earlier version of the textbooks should be restored.

Dalit and student organisations, and Opposition parties continue to be up in arms considering that, for now, the government has in concrete terms only agreed to re-edit the lesson on 12th century social reformer Basaveshwara, assuaging Lingayat seers who had raised objections.

On Ambedkar

Dalit organisations are upset that objections they had raised over the lesson on Dr. B. R. Ambedkar has not been heeded to. They have come down on the Chief Minister, accusing him of playing "vote-bank politics", since he has responded to objections raised by Vokkaliga and Lingayat communities only.

Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly Siddaramaiah has called for scrapping of the revised textbooks. •FILE PHOTO

Mavalli Shankar, State convener, Dalit Sangharsha Samiti, said lesson on Dr. Ambedkar be re-edited to voice his criticism of caste hierarchy in Hinduism. He claimed that the entire textbook revision betrayed "a step-motherly treatment to writers from oppressed communities." "We will not accept the revised textbooks. All the dalit organisations will meet on Monday and decide on the next course of agitation," he said.

What is the mechanism?

Student organisations have also demanded that the Chief Minister take back the revised textbooks. All-India Democratic Students' Organisation has said they will continue their agitation. They have also raised questions on the lack of clarity in the Chief Minister's statements.

"The Chief Minister has said they have an open mind to edit any objectionable content in the textbooks. But what is the mechanism proposed for the same and till that process is completed, which textbooks should the students study?," the AIDSO questioned. Student organisations have termed the Chief Minister's statement an eyewash and misleading.

'Panel with agenda'

Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly Siddaramaiah, in a series of tweets, hit out at the Chief Minister. "It is the revised textbook that needs to be withdrawn and not the committee which has already fulfilled its agenda. If a prejudiced chairman is removed, then how can we accept the textbook revised by his committee?" he questioned.

He further said: "It is the duty of the Chief Minister to clarify the doubts raised in the minds of the people of Karnataka. Instead, he is trying to confuse them further," he alleged.

"The only way to clear this confusion is to scrap this controversial revised textbook, constitute a new committee and continue to use the old textbook," he argued.

Vokkaligas to protest

Leaders of the Vokkaliga community, who had raised objections to textbook revision committee head Rohit Chakrathirtha allegedly sharing content that insulted Nada Geethe (state anthem) penned by Kuvempu, are also not happy.

Writer and member of 'Vishwa Manava Krantikari Mahakavi Kuvempu Horata Samiti' L.N. Mukundaraj said his promise that it would be investigated was an "eyewash."

"The government is still not taking any serious action in this regard. So we will continue our agitation against the government and have already decided to stage a protest in Bengaluru, under the leadership of various mutts seers," he said.

Confusion galore over new version

There is no clarity on whether revised textbooks will be withdrawn or not

JAYANTH R.
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai's statement that the lesson on 12th century reformer Basavanna will suitably be re-edited so that no sentiments are hurt and the government had an open mind to revise any other objectionable content, has led to confusion not only among students and parents, but in the government itself.

Mr. Bommai's had also said on Friday night that the process of printing and distributing textbooks was under way already – 79.7% of textbooks were printed, and 66.98% of textbooks were already distributed. There is no clarity on whether they will be withdrawn, reprinted after making edits, or whether no such exercise will be carried out.

Moreover, the Chief Minister also announced that the Rohith Chakrathritha-led Textbook Revision Review Committee had been dissolved as its tenure was over. There have been questions raised as to who will now re-edit the lesson on Basavanna and whether the government was serious about reviewing other contents of the new textbooks at all.

Over 10 writers have withdrawn permission to use their works in the textbooks in protest against the review of textbooks. Minister for Primary and Secondary Education B.C. Nagesh had earlier expressed helplessness saying the textbooks had already gone for print. There is confusion over whether students will get textbooks finalised by the Rohith Chakrathirtha-led committee or whether a new version of the textbooks was in the pipeline.

Meanwhile, Karnataka Textbook Society, has said the present print order is based on the textbooks finalised by Rohith Chakrathirtha-led committee and there has been no indication from the State government on any new version.

M.P. Madegowda, Director, Karnataka Textbook Society, told to *The Hindu* that, "Till now, the government hasn't informed us of any new version of the textbooks. This academic year we got around 7 lakhs print order. We already distributed 67% of the books for every schools and only 20% of book printing is pending," he said.

The Chief Minister has said that the process of printing and distributing textbooks was already under way •FILE PHOTO

Cong. to take out padayatra from Kuvempu's birthplace

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Kimmane Rathnakar, former Education Minister and Congress leader, announced that the party has decided to take out a padayatra from Kuppalli, the birthplace of poet Kuvempu, in Shivamogga district, seeking withdrawal of revised school textbooks.

He urged the government to scrap textbooks revised by the committee headed by Rohit Chakrathirtha. The committee cannot revise the textbooks from Classes 1 to 10 in a couple of months "by holding meetings in a hotel," said Mr. Rathnakar. The dates of the padayatra would be announced shortly, he said. He urged the government to continue with the old textbooks and constitute a new committee for the revision of textbooks.

Priyank Kharge, former Minister and MLA, said there was no educationist or scientist in the committee

Kimmane Rathnakar

headed by Rohit Chakrathirtha.

Meanwhile, in a series of tweets in Kannada, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said that the content of the revised textbooks was against the spirit of Karnataka, a land that has seen great personalities espousing the cause of social justice, humanism and unity. He said that Congress would not allow textbooks that are against the principles of B.R. Ambedkar, Narayana Guru, Kuvempu, Buddha and Basava to be imposed on students.

Same poem in Class III and IV textbooks

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

Rohith Chakrathirtha's textbook revision committee is faced with another controversy, with the same poem in Class III and Class IV Kannada textbooks.

The poem, "Baaviyalli Chandra" by B.M. Sharma has been found in both Class III textbook 'Kali Nali Kannada' and Class IV 'Savi Kannada'.

The earlier textbook revision committee, headed by Baragur Ramchandrappa, had prescribed it for Class III students.

Lingayat seers to meet in Dharwad on June 7

This is to decide the next course of action

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HUBBALLI/ KALABURAGI

In the wake of Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai's statement on re-revising lessons on Basaveshwara, Lingayat seers, under the guidance of Sri Panditaradhya Shivacharya Swami of Sanehalli and Sri Siddarama Swami of Gadag Tontadarya Mutt, will meet in Dharwad on June 7 to decide the next course of action.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Sri Basava Jaya Mrutyunjaya Swami, the head of Lingayat Panchamasali Peetha, Kudalasangama, said that the CM's statement on revising lessons on Basavanna had brought some solace. "However, the dissolution of the textbook revision committee is not of much use as it had already completed its work. What is important is that all those errors and discreditable words about Basavanna, his life and contribution, should be removed and the Chief Minister should immediately take action in this regard," he said.

The Chief Minister should consult all the Lingayat seers or convene a meeting to decide on how the re-revision should be done, he said.

Meanwhile, the General Secretary of Jagatika Lingayat Mahasabha S.M. Jamdar has urged the CM to initiate steps to correct other errors and misrepresentations as well. "Mr. Bommai has said that he would get corrected the errors in the text pertaining to the life and work of Basavanna. But, what about the other mistakes in the revised textbooks," he asked.

Basavalinga Pattadevaru, the head of Bhalki Hiremath in Bidar district, however, has welcomed the CM's statement and thanked him.

Convene a meeting of stakeholders: Baragur

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

Baragur Ramachandrappa, chairman of the earlier textbook committee, has urged Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai to call a meeting of all stakeholders who are protesting against revision of textbooks done by the committee headed by Rohith Chakrathirtha.

Responding to the Chief Minister's statements on Friday night and the report submitted by the Education Minister, Ramachandrappa said that the revised textbooks were "against the principles of Basavanna and Kuvempu."

He further said revision committee has completely ignored the National Textbook Curriculum Framework. He alleged that the revisions were "anti-Dalit, anti-women and against constitutional values, social justice and equality." He said the Chief Minister should listen to those who are opposing the revised textbooks.

Baragur Ramachandrappa

On the claim that there was hardly difference in the content about Basavanna between the earlier and revised textbooks, he said that in the Class IX Social Science textbook, the Rohith Chakrathirhta committee had dropped many important parts like Basavanna's view against superstitions and on the Vedic period. He said that this "anomaly" cannot be corrected by just including 10 Vachanas in the textbook.

FROM PAGE ONE

'Our govt. treads Basava patha'

"Any anomalies in the review of textbooks would be taken seriously and they would be rectified based on facts," Mr. Bommai said.

However, he was non-committal on demands for revision from other quarters. To a question on inclusion of a lesson based on the speech of RSS founder Keshav Baliram Hedgewar, Mr. Bommai said that it would stay in the textbook.

The textbook review committee, led by Rohith Chakrathirtha, had been dissolved as it had completed its task, he said. "Many seers have conveyed their views on the revised textbooks and appropriate action would be take. "Ours is a government treading the Basava *patha*," he said, insisting that there were very few differences between the text reviewed by the Baragur Ramachandrappa committee and the present one.

Police thwart VHP's 'Srirangapatna Chalo'

Hindutva activists reiterate demand for video survey of Jamia Masjid

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MYSURU

The 'Srirangapatna Chalo' programme of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) and other Hindutva groups to lay siege to the 18th century mosque in the island town and perform puja was thwarted by the Mandya district authorities on May 4.

While a prohibitory order under Section 144 was in force since June 3 evening, the police had posted personnel in Srirangapatna, and the road leading to the mosque was out of bounds for the general public, forcing the activists to stage an agitation on the outskirts of the town. Roads within the town were barricaded and a large posse of police personnel were omnipresent.

As a result of the precautionary measures, traffic movement on the busy Bengaluru-Mysuru highway was not affected.

Authorities had denied permission for organising a rally or a procession in Srirangapatna as a precautionary measure.

Stage dharna

About 200 VHP activists and members of other Hindutva groups assembled at Kirangur Junction near Cauvery Bridge North, beyond which their entry was barred. They staged a dharna and aired slogans besides singing bhajans and intermittently raised incendiary slogans.

VHP activists who were prevented from entering Srirangapatana, as they had threatened to lay seige to a mosque to perform puja, demonstrating outside the town on Saturday. •M.A. SRIRAM

The local leaders of the VHP claimed that they are yet to get a reply to a memorandum submitted in May to the Deputy Commissioner of Mandya seeking clarification on the status of the monument.

Apart from staking a claim over the mosque built during the period of Hyder Ali and Tipu Sultan, and claiming that the mosque was built on the site of a temple, VHP activists said that the Jamia Masjid is a protected monument. Hence, they want the authorities to stop the functioning of a madrasa in the premises.

'Warning' that their 'patience is running out', the VHP leaders reiterated their earlier demand for a video survey of the monument on the lines of the one carried out at Gyanvapi mosque in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh. They threatened to intensify their agitation if they do not receive a reply from the authorities concerned within the next 25 days.

Home Minister Araga Jnanendra had stated that nobody would be allowed to take the law into their hands or disturb peace, and that the police would act firmly against those violating the law.

Mandya Superintendent of Police N. Yatish said the situation was fully under control and that adequate police personnel had been deployed in Srirangapatna, which includes four platoons of Karnataka State Reserve Police, four platoons of District Armed Reserve Police, a unit of rapid response force, besides deploying senior officials from other cities.

Rashtrothana Sahitya gets best publisher award for 2021

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Rashtrothana Sahitya, an affiliate of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, has been selected for the best publisher award with a cash prize of ₹1 lakh for 2021 by the The Kannada Book Authority (KBA).

KBA on Saturday announced its annual awards for the year 2021.

Dr. Gurulinga Kapase, Dharwad, has been selected for Dr. M.M. Kalaburagi Humanities Studies Award carrying a cash prize of ₹75,000. Dr. Mohan Alva from Moodabidri has been selected for Dr. G.P. Rajarathnam Literary Promotion award that carries a cash prize of ₹50,000.

Quiz master and writer Dr. N. Someshwara has been selected for Dr. Anupama Niranjana medical and science literature award carrying a cash prize of ₹25,000.

The KBA has also announced 2021 Kannada Pustaka Sogasu and Mudrana Sogasu awards.

In the Pustaka Sogasu category, the first prize will be given to *Namma Dehada Vijnana*, written by Dr. T.R. Anantharamu and Dr. N. Someshwara, published by Navakarnataka Publications Pvt Ltd, Bengaluru. The Pustaka Mudrana Sogasu award has been bagged by Shi Ra. Hugara for his book *Siri Belaku*, printed by Twarit Mudran Offset Printers, Gadag, with a cash prize of ₹5,000.

Notebook, Makkala Kathegalu, written by Dr. K. Shivalingappa Handihalu published by Kavana Prakashana, Ballari, has been selected for Makkala Pustaka Sogasu, with a cash prize of ₹8.000. G. Arun Kumar has been chosen for the best cover page design of the book *Alpasankyataru mattu Jathi vyavaste* written by Dr. Muzafar Azadi.

Two Karnataka incubators get top ranking in annual survey

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Two incubators supported by the departments of Electronics, IT, BT, and Science and Technology have bagged the top rankings, as per an annual survey that covered 40 bio-spectrum initiatives across the country in the public sector.

Bangalore Bioinnovation Centre stood first while C-Camp (Centre for Cellular and Molecular Platforms) attained the second rank.

These two initiatives of the Department of IT and BT are supported through its nodal agency Karnataka Innovative Technological Society (KITS).

Fifth rank

The Manipal Bioincubator, which is also incubated through KITS, has secured the fifth ranking in the private sector category.

"This time, 40 bioincubators across the country were included in the survey. The survey reflects the quality of services provided to startups, the IPs filed, investments brought etc," said C.N. Ashwath Narayan, Minister for IT/BT and Science and Technology, here on Saturday.

This national-level recognition established the fact that Karnataka had been the frontrunner in creating the ecosystem needed for startups, with a focus on bio and health sciences, the Minister further added.

English version of Kuvempu's magnum opus released

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

An English translation of Kuvempu's classic work, "Malegalalli Madumagalu" (The Bride in the Rainy Mountains), was released on Saturday in Bengaluru.

The book has been translated by Dr. K.M. Srinivasa Gowda and G.K. Srikantamurthy. It was released by poet Dr. H.S. Shivaprakash, who underlined the importance of reaching works of Kuvempu across languages through translations. Critic Rajendra Chenni spoke about the book.

Another book "Kattuva Haadiyalli" by Kadidal Prakash, was released by Kannada Development Authority Chairman T.S. Nagabharana. Critic Basavaraj Kalgudi spoke about the book. Both the books were released at a programme organised by Rashtrakavi Kuvempu Pratistana, Kuppalli, at Gandhi Bhavan.

On World Environment Day, *The Hindu* looks at a few exemplary community and individual initiatives to conserve nature

One man's effort spawns a green army

Ramesh of Srirangapatna started mission afforestation at Karighatta; students are helping him now

R. KRISHNA KUMAR
MYSURU

The drive up the Karighatta Hill located on the banks of the Cauvery at Srirangapatna can be energy sapping during summer, given the searing heat in the region.

But Ramesh of Naguvanahalli Chandagalu village is unfazed as he balances two 20-litre cans of water on his shoulders and treks up the hill watering the plants along the way. This is his mission to green the hill and grow more trees in the arid region.

A task he has taken upon himself since 2012, Mr. Ramesh, who lives in Srirangapatna and, ironically, distributes mineral water to earn a living, spends a portion of his earnings on tree plantation and ensures adequate water to keep the saplings alive. He has been doing this since the summer of 2012, when a man-made fire devastated large tracts of vegetation at Karighatta.

"I used to visit the temple atop Karighatta every Saturday and enjoy the scenic beauty and the greenery all around. But I was crestfallen when a fire consumed the forest and reduced it to cinders. It was a man-made fire and left me aghast that people could be so insensitive and apathetic towards forests. Since then I have taken it upon myself to plant trees and restore the greenery of the hill," recalled Mr. Ramesh.

Determined: Ramesh of Srirangapatna has planted nearly 3,000 saplings in and around Karighatta Hill and waters them regularly to restore tree cover. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Initially, his efforts were frowned upon by the locals but Mr. Ramesh persisted and his labour is paying dividends and locals aver that the tree cover at Karighatta has increased.

Unique idea

Though not conventionally educated about environment, Mr. Ramesh, who dropped out without completing BA, acquired adequate information from various sources and went about planting saplings of indigenous varieties of plants that are fruit-bearing. But the challenge was to maintain them till they matured. So Mr. Ramesh decided to water the plants himself twice or thrice a week between December and May when there is little to no rainfall. For this, he thought upon a unique idea.

"Tourists who come to Karighatta discard drinking water bottles that are strewn all over. I decided to put the waste plastic bottles for better use," said Mr. Ramesh. The empty bottles are filled with water, their cap screwed tight, turned upside down and tied to the pole supporting the sapling and this acts like a drip irrigation system.

"I drill a pinhole to ensure a leak of one drop of water every two seconds. I fill up the water bottles in the evening and the water drips all through the night," said Mr. Ramesh who has so far planted more than 3,000 saplings.

"I don't plant more than 300 saplings every year as it is beyond my capacity to ensure water for all of them. But whatever I do, I try to ensure their survival," he explained.

At least 80% of the saplings have survived and there are patches of greenery in places that were otherwise bald patches of land at Karighatta. Mr. Ramesh is supported by his wife, Anupama, in the afforestation mission. Inspired by his deeds, about 20 local school students have constituted a 'Hasiru Sena' (green army) to help Mr. Ramesh.

HC fiat on computing relief for 'loss of future prospects' in accident cases

'Physical disability sans amputation requires to be factored in'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The physical disability caused to the limbs, even without amputation, requires to be factored in for computation of compensation under the category for 'loss of future prospects' while assessing loss of future earnings in motor vehicle accident claims (MVC) cases, the High Court of Karnataka has said.

'Just compensation'

"It is undoubtedly true that it is no part of the statutory law governing the field of award of compensation in motor vehicle accident cases. But, courts are enjoined under the law to award 'just compensation' and no compensation can be regarded as just unless the law is capable of reinventing itself by making proper adjustments as the needs of the time required," the court observed. "Judges sometimes make law if the statutes made by Parliament fall short of meeting the requirements of the time," the court observed.

A Division Bench comprising Justice Krishna S. Dixit and P. Krishna Bhat passed the order while rejecting the argument, made on behalf of New India Assurance Company Ltd., that disability sans amputation cannot be considered for "loss of future prospects".

The insurance company had challenged the award passed by a tribunal in Hubballi in favour of a 40-year-old tailor who had suffered grievous injuries when a State road transport corporation bus rammed into a parked truck in 2009.

Pointing out that component of 'loss of future prospects' is a forensic tool forged by the Supreme Court to off-set the adverse effect of imponderable vagaries of inflation on the assessment of loss of future earning, the Bench said that "to link this component only to disability arising from amputation of limbs defies logic and has no sanction of law."

On the arguments of the insurance company, the Bench said such arguments "only brings to sharp relief the urgent need for updation by the advocate of the fast-changing approach of the law in consonance with felt necessities of the time without which the precious time of the courts will have to be wasted in needlessly dwelling on the same."

Any disability to any limb of the body which has a role to play in the functional-economic sense indubitably causes its effect on the whole body warranting curial intervention in its reparative and recompensing role, the Bench said.

Neem trees greet devotees here, thanks to retired forest guard

Bommalingappa takes care of 1,200 trees that he planted

Green avenue: Neem trees planted on either side of the road by K.O. Bommalingappa (bottom) near Nayakanahatti in Challakere taluk. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

SATHISH G.T.
HASSAN

Hundreds of people from different parts of central Karnataka take out a padayatra to Nayakanahatti in Challakere taluk of Chitradurga district for the annual car festival of deity Thippeswamy. The festival is normally held in March, when the mercury levels are high.

A few kilometres ahead of their destination, the devotees are greeted by lush neem trees on either side of the road that connects Mushtur-Nayakanahatti-Challakere. Regular travellers know that it was K.O. Bommalingappa, a retired forest guard, who planted the neem saplings while he was in service, and took care of them all these years.

Roadside plantation

Mr. Bommalingappa, 66, got into the Forest Department in 1989 as a watcher. He served the department for about 28 years, before retiring in 2017. In his long service, he has planted thousands of saplings wherever he was posted. "When I joined the service, senior officers had told me about the importance of roadside plantation. I have served in parts of Jagalur, Holalkere, and Challakere taluks. All along, with my service, I have planted thousands of plants. Whenever I go to these places, I feel proud looking at how well the trees have grown," Mr. Bommalingappa told *The Hindu*.

Mr. Bommalingappa has been taking special care of the 1,200 neem trees that he planted near Nayakanahatti. When he was posted at Jajur in Challakere taluk in 2001-02, he planted 1,209 saplings of neem along about 5.5-km stretch of the road. "I came back to Challakere taluk again in 2009 and continued to look after these plants. Now I am retired, but continue to keep a watch on them, as one of my relatives has got land nearby and handed it over to me for cultivation," he said. When asked why he chose neem saplings, he said they are good for shade and also carry high value when grown well.

Mr. Bommalingappa stays at Nayakanahatti with his wife, Chelumakka. His two daughters are teachers and his son is a software engineer in Bengaluru. He is quite popular in the villages around Nayakanahatti for his afforestation activity. "He is a household name in our region," said K.M. Shivaswamy, a resident of Nayakanahatti and president of Chitradurga district unit of Kannada Sahitya Parishat.

A fruitful endeavour

Volunteers of NECF plant fruit-bearing trees along the forest edges

RAVIPRASAD KAMILA
MANGALURU

A group of volunteers is engaged in planting saplings of fruit-bearing trees/plants on the foothills of the Western Ghats in the coastal belt during the rainy season from the past four years.

An initiative by Mangaluru-based National Environment Care Foundation (NECF), saplings are planted from June to August every year since 2018 on the fringes of forests mainly for preventing attacks by wild animals on the farmland in the long run and to strengthen the rain forests. The volunteers comprise both college students and activists of the NECF.

Wild animals, including monkeys and boars, target arecanut, coconut, banana, cocoa, and vegetable crops on the farmland located on the fringes of the forest area. Among the reasons attributed for it are shrinking forest area and felling of fruit-bearing trees in the forests by the timber and quarrying mafia.

According to the convener of the NECF Shashidhar Shetty, the volunteers have planted about 5,000 saplings during every rainy season and 75% of them have survived as the volunteers also monitor the survival rate. About 10 Sundays in the three months are used for planting. "We also dig rainwater percolation pits upstream of the saplings planted area for the survival of the plants," he said.

Local species

"About 500 volunteers are engaged in the planting drive every season," he said and added that the planting on Sunday would be done in Moodbidri area. "The saplings are that of Western Ghats species such as jackfruit, wild jackfruit, mango, kokum, jamun, tamarind, water apple, and butter fruit," Mr. Shetty said.

"We did not relax during the COVID-19 times of 2020 and 2021. Planting was done after obtaining permission from the government authorities," he said.

From this year, the NECF will rope in members of the Bar associations of Udupi and Mangaluru and the police in the planting drive.

At work: Volunteers of the National Environment Care Foundation, Mangaluru, planting saplings at Neralakatte near Kundapur in Udupi district. • FILE PHOTO

Volunteers in aid of farmers and nature

Belagavi-based Green Saviours believes that agroforestry serves the cause of growers and environment

RISHIKESH BAHADUR DESAI
BELAGAVI

After planting over 50,000 saplings across Belagavi district in six years, Belagavi-based NGO Green Saviours is moving towards promoting agroforestry in the villages in the remote regions of the Western Ghats.

Network of farmers

On a pilot, members of the NGO, all volunteers, have formed a network of farmers in Belagavi district. "Our teams work with farmers and plant fruiting trees such as jackfruit, mango, kokum, chikoo, banana, and guava along with arecanut, cinnamon, and nutmeg among their field crops. The interspaces are populated with vegetables, greens, and tubers. The method also incorporates other species of trees and plants to generate mulch and offer natural disease resistance," said Sameer Majli, founder of the NGO.

Helping hand: A Green Saviours team at an agroforestry field in the Western Ghats • FILE PHOTO

The NGO procures the farm produce for sale in Belagavi and the entire revenue is transferred to farmers. In return, the farmers assist the restoration work by planting other native species on barren land in and around the villages. While work has commenced in three villages, the team will be extending the work to cover 20 villages in the Western Ghats by December 2022.

Mahaveer Upadhyaya, an industrialist who has been with the NGO since its inception, said that entrepreneurs among the volunteers have set up online sales platforms to sell produces from the farmers who have adopted agroforestry.

Since April 2016, the teams have worked for over 310 consecutive Sundays and planted over 50,000 trees. Anand Tapadia, a young lawyer who has been associated with the NGO since his school days, said, "Unlike my friends who watched TV or played, I went on tree plantation trips. That experience is irreplaceable."

To supplement livelihood

"We aim to provide solutions to supplement rural livelihoods and engage villagers in ecological restoration. Agroforestry offers an excellent solution to enhance the fertility of the soil through extensive mulching, reduces water requirements, and creates a more sustainable and diverse ecosystem on farmland," Mr. Majli said.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

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Over 3.2 lakh dealers in T.N. did not pay any GST last year

About 1.94 lakh paid less than ₹1,000

T. RAMAKRISHNAN
CHENNAI

Around 30% of the dealers registered with Tamil Nadu's Commercial Taxes Department (3.26 lakh) did not pay a single rupee in the Goods and Services Tax (GST) in 2021-22. Besides, about 1.94 lakh dealers paid less than ₹1,000 throughout the year. Dealers include traders, manufacturers and service providers.

These findings have emerged from a study done by the Department on the tax remittances. There are about 11 lakh registered dealers in the State. Of these, 6.72 lakh come under the State jurisdiction and the rest under the Centre. The threshold for the registration of taxpayers dealing in goods is ₹40 lakh and of those dealing in services ₹20 lakh.

Though the previous financial year's revenue collections, in terms of year-on-year growth, saw a positive rate of 15.83%, the highest in a financial year since the GST was introduced in July 2017, the authorities were plugging the loopholes in the tax collection mechanism. Hence, the study was done. The GST revenue collections comprise State GST (SGST), Integrated GST (IGST) settlement and ad-hoc IGST settlement. Compensation has not been taken into account for calculating the collections. The monthly GST collection data, released by the Centre in the last six months, reveal that Tamil Nadu had registered a tepid growth in the corresponding months of the previous year.

Asked whether the nil or negligible payment of tax can be considered tax evasion, a senior official of the Commercial Taxes Department said, "Right now, such a conclusion cannot be arrived at. For that, we will have to peruse accounts of the dealers thoroughly." After the study, the Department sent communication to 5.2 lakh dealers, "requesting" them to check their accounts. This initiative had its own impact, prompting 22,430 dealers to pay about ₹64.22 crore in May. "For the time being, persuasion is our policy with regard to getting back the tax due to the government," points out the official.

Observing that not every one of the 5.2 lakh dealers can claim to have carried out business within the threshold, the official says the payment of tax has become a necessity as buyers, especially those belonging to micro, small and medium enterprises, want to avail themselves of input tax credit. Another measure initiated by the Department is to monitor those who have opted for the composition scheme of taxation with a rate of 1% for traders and manufacturers whose aggregate annual turnover is up to ₹1.5 crore. There are around 60,000 dealers who have joined the scheme. The aim is to ascertain whether such dealers have recorded a turnover in excess of the permissible level. Consequently, 28 dealers have been chosen for inspection of accounts. As a result, over 1, 220 dealers have opted out of the composition scheme and registered themselves as regular dealers. Last month, they paid ₹84 lakh in tax.

Due to various enforcement measures taken by the Department, the number of taxpayers touched an "all time high" of 3.66 lakh during April 2022.

Growth in collections

The table shows the trend of Goods and Services Tax revenue in Tamil Nadu over the years

Year	SGST	IGST settlement	Ad-hoc IGST settlement	Total	Growth rate (%)
2018-19	₹24,476.56	₹12,425.94	₹4,842.82	₹41,745.32	Not applicable*
2019-20	₹27,117.38	₹14,031.04	₹196.76	₹41,345.18	-0.96
2020-21	₹23,870.18	₹15,534.18	₹2,826.26	₹42,230.62	2.14
2021-22	₹29,440.98	₹16,540.01	₹2,935.32	₹48,916.31	15.83

*in view of the introduction of GST in July 2017
SGST - State Goods and Services Tax
IGST - Integrated GST

NOTE: COMPENSATION UNDER THE GST REGIME HAS BEEN EXCLUDED FOR THE PURPOSE OF CALCULATION OF REVENUE. | SOURCE: POLICY NOTE OF THE COMMERCIAL TAXES AND REGISTRATION DEPARTMENT, TAMIL NADU GOVERNMENT, FOR 2022-23.

Tiger making 'wise moves' to escape being tranquillised

Experts change tack, launch rescue effort at night

T. APPALA NAIDU
RAJAMAHENDRAVARAM

The adult Royal Bengal Tiger is playing hide-and-seek with the wildlife experts, as it appears to have gained complete command over the strange landscape in which it has been making wise moves to escape the attempts to tranquillise it.

The tiger, believed to have attained breeding age, has so far succeeded in not walking into the trap laid for it in the Prathipadu area in Kakinada district of Andhra Pradesh.

Forest personnel placing a cage to trap the tiger.

Fresh kill

"The tiger is not making any move during the day time. On Saturday, it preyed on a fresh kill. On Friday night, it returned to the left over kill to devour it. It has apparently sensed our preparedness and left the area immediately," Divisional Forest Officer (Wildlife-Rajahmundry) C. Selvam told *The Hindu*.

The fresh kill, a buffalo, was reported nearly 1.5-km from the last kill recorded at Uttarakanchi village along the Polavaram project canal.

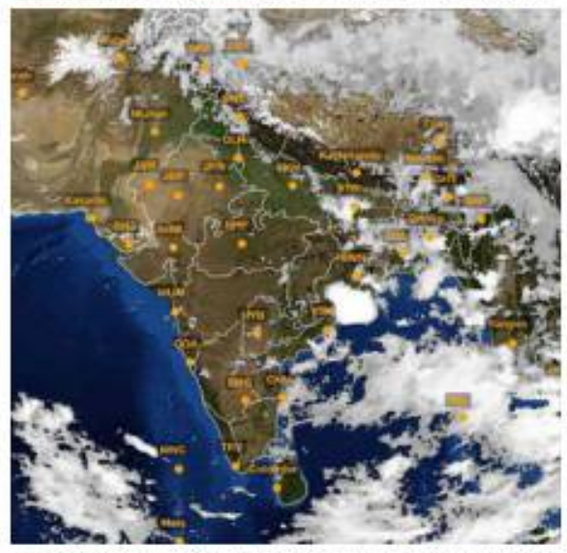
"We have changed our strategy. We are preparing to carry out rescue operation during the night," Mr. Selvam said.

The next level of rescue operation was launched on Saturday night under the aegis of the trained rescue team sent by the Nagarjunasagar-Srisailam Tiger Reserve (NSTR) authorities.

The trained team had prior experience in dealing with the rescue operation carried out in the NSTR. However, the team members would have to gain some clues about the tiger's behaviour.

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.00 HRS)

Forecast for Sunday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Sikkim, south interior Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, Kerala and Mahe. Heat wave condition likely at isolated places over Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Haryana, Delhi, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Odisha, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	0.1	30.7	26.0	Kozhikode	1	34.5	26.0
Ahmedabad	–	42.6	27.2	Kurnool	–	41.2	28.2
Aizawl	9	26.4	21.8	Lucknow	–	43.7	26.9
Allahabad	–	45.8	30.0	Madurai	–	38.7	26.5
Bengaluru	28	33.0	19.5	Mangaluru	1.3	32.0	24.6
Bhopal	–	–	30.0	Mumbai	–	34.0	28.2
Bhubaneswar	–	35.7	28.5	Mysuru	4	34.0	21.4
Chandigarh	–	44.7	25.9	New Delhi	–	43.9	28.7
Chennai	–	37.3	29.8	Patna	–	38.0	27.0
Coimbatore	–	35.4	23.4	Port Blair	6	30.8	23.6
Dehradun	–	40.5	21.5	Puducherry	–	35.0	26.8
Gangtok	0.2	20.4	17.3	Pune	–	37.4	23.8
Goa	–	34.3	26.6	Raipur	–	45.6	30.5
Guwahati	0.8	34.2	25.5	Ranchi	–	38.2	27.5
Hubballi	–	35.0	23.0	Shillong	45	25.3	16.0
Hyderabad	2	39.8	24.0	Shimla	–	33.0	22.9
Imphal	7	29.0	22.5	Srinagar	–	29.2	12.8
Jaipur	–	42.8	32.6	Thiruvananthapuram	1	31.5	25.7
Kochi	–	31.6	25.4	Tiruchi	–	39.9	27.0
Kohima	–	26.0	16.4	Vijayawada	–	43.0	20.5
Kolkata	–	35.9	29.1	Visakhapatnam	2	33.6	25.6

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing — Yesterday

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	11	12	–	214	205	
Bengaluru	41	–	47	97	107	
Chennai	8	14	47	64	75	
Delhi	23	–	72	226	339	
Hyderabad	8	27	57	136	143	
Kolkata	15	13	18	81	106	
Lucknow	6	111	37	306	275	
Mumbai	3	24	45	79	80	
Pune	115	60	115	156	97	
Visakhapatnam	–	–	18	–	–	

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Bihar Sharif, Bihar recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 413 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Gangtok, Sikkim recorded a healthy AQI score of 27

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Hyderabad police search pub, take 12 into custody

It has no valid permission, say police

STAFF REPORTER
HYDERABAD

The Special Operations Team (SOT) of Madhapur police raided a resto bar and pub inside an upmarket mall in the KPHB police limits in Hyderabad on Friday night.

The police on Saturday said there was no valid permission to run the bar.

Several violations

The police said the organisers employed women dancers.

The special team took 12 members of 'Club Masti', including a manager, nine women dancers and a DJ operator into custody, and seized a DJ mixer, controller and hookah flavour box.

The accused and the seized material were later handed over to the local KPHB police for further investigation.

According to the KPHB police, the accused were served memos.

It was also found that the resto bar and pub let out noise beyond the permissible levels and operated beyond the permissible hours.

The accused were booked under Section 188 (disobedience to order promulgated by public servant), and Section 294 (obscene acts in public).

Slight uptick in COVID cases in Telangana

STAFF REPORTER
HYDERABAD

After drop in daily COVID cases in Telangana for a day, cases have gone up again. While 49 cases were recorded on Friday, 76 people tested COVID positive on Saturday.

While 67 cases were recorded on Thursday, the State reported 75 COVID cases on Wednesday.

The daily number of tests remained the same as it was in the previous month: around 10,000-14,000 a day. Out of the 76 new cases, 55 are from Hyderabad, and 10 from Rangareddy.

From March 2, 2020, to June 4 this year, a total of 3.50 crore samples have been tested and 7,93,544 tested positive. Of the total cases, 7,88,886 have recovered, 547 were active cases, and 4,111 people died.

Suspense continues on A.P. 'gas leak'

STAFF REPORTER
VISAKHAPATNAM

A day after more than 200 women employees, a few of them pregnant, had fallen sick reportedly after inhaling some kind of a poisonous gas, suspense continued on Saturday on what exactly had happened at Quantum Seeds, a unit in Brandix India Apparel City (BIAC), at Atchutapuram in Andhra Pradesh on Friday.

BIAC's India partner P. Doraswamy said that some kind of gas would have leaked from the neighbouring chemical factory.

However, officials from the Department of Factories and the A.P. Pollution Control Board have said that they could not find any trace of gas leak in the factories nearby. They are also looking into the possibility of leak of freon from the air-conditioning unit at the Quantum Seeds.

Inaugural extravaganza

Joy of dancing: Devotees performing kolattam, a traditional dance, at the inauguration of the newly constructed Venkateswara Swamy temple in Amaravati on Saturday. The temple was constructed on the lines of the Tirumala temple. • G.N. RAO

Anganwadi in Kerala closed after 'food poisoning'

STAFF REPORTER
KOLLAM

An anganwadi at Kalluvathukkal in Kottarakara of Kerala was closed by the Food Safety Department on Saturday following a case of suspected food poisoning.

"Two students had developed symptoms of food poisoning and were hospitalised on Friday. We have inspected the anganwadi and the rice stored there was found to be infested. The people in charge had used the same rice to cook food and it was served to the children. The samples of all items used for cooking were collected and the stock was seized," said an official on Saturday.

Instructions have been given to shift the students to another unit and the anganwadi will not be allowed to prepare food without clearance from the department.

Reportedly, three students were admitted to the Kottarakara taluk hospital after they developed vomiting, diarrhoea and fatigue on Friday. They were discharged by evening.

Finance Minister and Kottarakara MLA K.N. Balagopal and officials visited the facility.

At present, the condition of all students were stable and two employees of the anganwadi were suspended.

At Kayamkulam

In Alappuzha, 18 children who consumed mid-day meal at Kayamkulam Town Upper Primary School, Alappuzha, on Friday were hospitalised on Saturday.

Health officials said the incident came to light when a few children approached the hospital with complaints of nausea and diarrhoea. Following this, officials conducted an inspection at the school and collected samples of food and water. The health condition of the children remained stable, officials said.

2 doctors held for 'baby sale' post in A.P.

STAFF REPORTER
VIJAYAWADA

The police on Saturday arrested two Registered Medical Practitioners in Andhra Pradesh for allegedly posting a 'baby for sale' message in WhatsApp to some members.

Challa Amrutha Rao and Pushpa Latha of Vijayawada reportedly uploaded the photograph of an infant and forwarded a message in the group stating that the three-day-old baby, weighing 3 kg was available for sale for ₹3 lakh.

The accused also stated that the baby would be sold along with the birth certificate.

A few group members reported the matter to the police and lodged a complaint. A case under Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, has been registered against the accused, the police said.

SC order on forests triggers confusion

Directive to have minimal impact in Kerala: officials

K.S. SUDHI
KOCHI

The Supreme Court directive to maintain a minimum Ecologically Sensitive Zone (ESZ) of 1 km for all protected forests has generated confusion, with Forest Minister A.K. Saseendran feeling that the order may hit Kerala hard. He says the issue will be discussed with Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan.

However, senior Forest department officials feel that the court directive will leave only a minimal impact as a host of restrictions, including a ban on setting up hazardous activities, are already in place in the zones.

A. K. Saseendran

The court has also suggested that if the prescribed ESZ goes beyond 1 km, the "wider margin" shall prevail as the zone.

Kerala has 25 protected areas, including 18 wildlife sanctuaries, six national parks and one community reserve. While most of the protected areas have the minimum prescribed ESZ of 1 km, the Parambikulam Tiger Reserve has an ESZ of 10.09 km in the southwest boundary. The Silent Valley National Park has a zone of 9.8 km in the southwest boundary, followed by the Chimmoney Wildlife Sanctuary (9.5 km in the west), the Shendurney Wildlife Sanctuary (6.5 km in south) and the Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary (4 km in both south and west boundaries.)

Going by the court directive, some of the townships and human habitations located close to protected areas such as Kumily and Painavu in Idukki and Batheri in Wayanad will come under the ESZ. However, the notification will not hit the habitations in a big way. Barring the ban on construction of permanent structures within the ESZ, the court has not prescribed any new restrictions, an official points out. The court has also noted that all the ongoing activities except the prohibited ones in the ESZ may continue with the permission of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests. One needs to obtain the necessary permission for such activities within six months, he points out.

Bennichen Thomas, Head of Forest Force, feels it may not be a viable proposition for the State alone to seek relaxation on the national norms. The department will seek a legal opinion from the Advocate General on the matter and the governmental decision before proceeding further, he says.

Plan to cover half the world in 377 days

Fayis Asraf Ali of Kerala is determined to cover 35 countries on a bicycle

AABHA RAVEENDRAN
KOZHIKODE

On the forthcoming Independence Day, Fayis Asraf Ali is setting out on a journey to London. But he may not reach his destination even on the next Independence Day. The 34-year-old native of Kozhikode is planning to traverse across half the world on a bicycle, covering 35 countries, 20,000 km in an estimated 377 days.

Fayis will set out from Thiruvananthapuram on August 15 and will ride to Mumbai, from where he will fly to Oman. The real expedition will begin from Oman.

He will travel through the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait, Iraq, Iran, Georgia, Armenia and Turkey to enter Europe. He will then pass through Bulgaria, Romania, Moldova, Ukraine, Poland, Czech Republic, Hungary, Serbia, Croatia, Austria, Italy, Switzerland, Germany, Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg and France.

"We did not get travel permit from Pakistan and China and, hence, had to avoid these countries," says Fayis.

100 km a day

His plan is to cover at least 100 km a day. He may have to halt at some places for practical reasons and, hence, requires so many days to complete the trip.

Fayis Asraf Ali in front of Petronas Tower during his trip to Singapore in 2019. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Fayis announced his trip on the occasion of International Bicycle day on June 3. The theme of his trip is 'Heart connects to heart' in honour of his father, who passed away due to cardiac ailments. "I want to convey the importance of a healthy heart to one and all," he says.

The trip is being organised under the banner of Eco-wheelers India, his riding group, and is supported by the Kozhikode-based One India Kite team. However, he is looking out for appropriate sponsorship.

Fayis claims to hold the record for the maximum distance covered on bicycle by a Keralite. He covered 8,000 km during his trip to Singapore in 2019, covering seven countries in 104 days.

FROM PAGE ONE

J&K govt. posts Pandit teachers to 'safer zones'

The BJP objected to the transfer list of Kashmiri Pandit employees surfacing in the public domain. The party demanded action against the officials concerned.

"Making the transfer list public on social media platforms is a big security breach as terrorists now have a clear idea who is posted where," BJP spokesperson Altaf Thakur said.

The J&K government has also directed all the departments to shift their Pandit employees, working in interiors of the Valley's 10 districts, to the more secure district headquarters.

The order has made it clear that the Lieutenant-Governor's administration is not heeding the demand to relocate employees outside the Kashmir valley.

The government has also asked Hindu employees to mark their preferred locations within the valley for posting, officials said.

Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, Pandurang K. Pole has directed that Pandit employees who consent to a transfer should be posted at the District Headquarters, or in municipal towns, or within a radius of 3 km of a municipal town.

"Pandit employee couples will be transferred to the same locality for safety," officials said.

Muslim clerics, civil society slam attacks

The religious leaders passed a joint resolution, unanimously condemning the attacks on Kashmiri Pandits and non-locals in the Valley.

Shia cleric Aga Syed Hassan Mosavi, president of the J&K Anjuman-e-Sharie Shian, denounced the killing of minorities, especially teachers. Grand mufti Nasirul-Islam termed the killings an "act of cowardice".

The leaders urged for unity among communities to "thwart evil designs of vested interest and called for interfaith dialogue across Kashmir to bridge the gaps".

The resolution also called for the early release of Mirwaiz Umar Farooq from house detention.

'Extend full support'

The Group of Concerned Citizens (GCC), a civil society body comprising former bureaucrats, academicians and retired judges, termed the killings "an assault on universal human values".

"We would appeal to all the people in Kashmir to strongly condemn such acts and extend full support and cooperation to the employees from the minority community for their security and protection," it said.

Centre yet to pay airlines for evacuation

The bills submitted were "technically examined" to ensure there was no overcharging. Various parameters, such as fuel cost, lay over, crew deployment, wide- and narrow-bodied aeroplane, and seat configuration, were analysed, a senior official of the Ministry of Civil Aviation said.

Later, the airlines were "sensitised" on how they should proceed with billing. Some airlines said that they have received payments from State governments, which had chartered their aircraft to fly students from cities like Mumbai and Delhi after their return from Ukraine.

This was the first air evacuation undertaken by the Indian government after the privatisation of Air India, which was routinely pressed into such activities. Air India was formally handed over to Tata Sons on January 27. But there is no discussion yet on whether there is a need to develop a systematic procedure for hiring airlines for future evacuations, officials in the Ministry of Civil Aviation and sources in the airlines say.

Corbevax gets nod as COVID-19 booster dose

"Recently, BE furnished its clinical trials data to the DCGI, which after a detailed evaluation and deliberations with the Subject Experts Committee, granted approval for administering Corbevax vaccine as a heterologous booster dose to people who have taken two doses of either Covishield or Covaxin," said the release.

It added that clinical trial data showed that Corbevax booster dose provided significant enhancement in immune response and good safety profile required for an effective booster.

Mahima Datla, managing director, Biological E. Ltd., said: "BE has conducted a multi-centre phase III placebo controlled heterologous booster clinical trial in 416 subjects from 18 to 80 years of age, who were previously vaccinated with two doses of either Covishield or Covaxin at least six months prior to the booster dose." The study indicated that the booster dose of Corbevax vaccine increased the neutralising antibody titres in the Covishield or Covaxin groups significantly when compared to placebo.

The company added that Corbevax heterologous booster vaccine was well tolerated and safe.

Hyderabad rape: BJP MLA shares video clip

On Friday, West zone DCP Joel Davis, announcing a breakthrough in the gangrape investigation, brushed aside reports that Home Minister Mahmood Ali's grandson and an MLA's son were connected to the crime.

"We are going by the statement given by the victim, and have identified the accused based on her version," the DCP said. Mr. Joel Davis said investigators would speak with the victim again in light of the video clip and initiate action based on inputs.

"It was unfortunate that the MLA released the pics and video clip," he remarked.

A hunt is on for the two more juveniles accused of involvement in the crime.

Youth Congress activists staged demonstrations in front of the DGP's office demanding stringent action against the accused. Workers of Janasena Party, Bahujan Samaj Party and YSRCP-Telangana Party organised protest demonstrations in front of the Jubilee Hills police station.

'Jammu also sees a revival in militancy'

65 IEDs found along highways, busy roads in past year; several explosions since March, say officials

VIJAITA SINGH
NEW DELHI

Not only the Kashmir Valley but even the Jammu division is causing concern for security agencies over attempts to revive militancy.

In the past year, the police and other security forces recovered around 65 improvised explosive devices (IED) planted along highways and busy roads in Jammu.

A senior government official said Pakistan-based terror organisations were approaching former militants with the intention to recruit them afresh.

"Pakistan-based handlers are contacting ex-militants to gauge their availability for specific missions. We have picked up chatter that indicates so," the official said.

The Chenab valley, which comprises Ramban, Doda and Kishtwar districts of the Jammu division, has often been declared "militancy-free" in police records. The latest such categorisation came on June 29, 2020 when the Jammu & Kashmir Police killed Masood, the last surviving Hizbul Mujahideen militant from Doda, in an encounter in Anantnag of south Kashmir.

Out of limits: Security personnel cordon off the area after a bank manager was shot dead by militants in Areh Kulgam district of south Kashmir on June 2. • THE HINDU

Another official said that IED devices and small weapons were being dropped using drones in areas close to the International Border in Jammu. The Border Security Force (BSF) had installed anti-drone guns along the International Border in Jammu to detect suspicious movement by air.

"The plan to simmer tensions in the Jammu division is to invoke communal tensions. Jammu has a mixed Hindu-Muslim population," the official said.

As reported earlier, since March, there have been more than half-a-dozen mysterious explosions on board buses and other vehicles and in open spaces in the Jammu division.

The official said that though Pakistan had agreed to observe all agreements pertaining to the ceasefire along the Line of Control (LoC) with effect from February 25, 2021, and shelling had stopped, giving a breather to the border residents, there was no let-up in infiltration attempts from across the border. "Counter-insurgency operations continue along the border as there are inputs on infiltration from across the border," the official said.

On May 26, a woman identified as Amreen Bhat, popular on social media for her short videos, was shot dead and her nephew injured, in a terrorist attack at Budgam in central Kashmir. The woman was at home when two men opened fire on her.

Security agencies believe there were two theories doing the rounds on her killing. "One, they thought her to be a police informer, and two, it could be related to fundamentalist ideology," the official said.

Exhumation of Hyderpora victim stayed

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR

A Division Bench of the Jammu and Kashmir High Court has stayed the earlier order of a Single Bench on exhumation of the body of Amir Latief Magray, one of the four persons who were killed during an encounter in the Hyderpora area of Srinagar on November 15 last year. The lawyer of the victim's family, however, said the court hearing on Friday was held "arbitrarily", and the stay was issued on the last day of the court vacation.

The Division Bench, comprising Justice Ali Muhammad Magrey and Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal, decided to stay "the operation of a judgment dated May 27, 2022", where the authorities were directed to exhume the body of Magrey from Jammu's Ramban and hand it over to the family for a burial at his hometown.

Hizbul 'commander' killed in Anantnag

Khanday joined militancy in 2018

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR

A Hizbul Mujahideen (HM) 'commander' was killed in an overnight encounter in south Kashmir's Anantnag district, the Jammu and Kashmir police said on June 4.

"The terrorist 'commander' of HM, Nisar Khanday, was killed. Incriminating materials, arms and ammunition, including one AK-47 rifle, were recovered at the encounter site. The operation is in progress," Inspector General of Police Vijay Kumar said.

Security personnel stand guard near an encounter site in Anantnag. • NISSAR AHMAD

Khanday was a resident of Dooru in Anantnag and joined militancy on October 12, 2018. A group of hiding militants was encircled at Gawas village of Karan Vernag on June 3 evening during an anti-militancy operation of the security forces. Three soldiers and one civilian were injured in the initial exchange of fire. The police said all the injured were stable and are being treated in hospital.

12 killed, 21 injured in fire in Hapur

Factory did not have the required licence and the fire safety clearance, say police

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GHAZIABAD

Twelve persons were killed and 21 injured after a fire swept through an illegal toy gun factory in the Dhaulana industrial area of Hapur in Uttar Pradesh on Saturday, the police said.

Seven fire tenders were rushed from Hapur and Ghaziabad and it took three hours to control the blaze.

Sarvesh Mishra, Assistant Superintendent of Police, Hapur, said the condition of nine of the injured was serious and they had been shifted to Safdarjung Hospital in New Delhi.

The others have been admitted to government hospitals in Meerut and Ghaziabad, he said.

Mr. Mishra said the factory did not have the required licence and the fire safety clearance.

"Preliminary investigation has revealed that an inflammable chemical was being used. When it caught fire, the plastic sheets started burning and because of the high temperature and lack of ventilation, the fire could not be contained in the small unit spread over only around 500 yards. It led to a blast and the roof, made of iron, collapsed," the officer said. The impact was so sudden and severe that none of the workers present in the factory could escape. Mr. Mishra said the forensic team had taken samples of the chemical being used. He denied initial reports that suggested a blast in the boiler led to the fire.

Charred remains: Police personnel inspect the premises of a gutted toy gun factory in Hapur on Saturday. • PTI

District Magistrate Medha Roopam said the initial permission was sought for making electronic goods but it was not clearly the case and an investigation would reveal the truth.

Some of the bodies, Mr. Mishra said, were "charred beyond recognition". An FIR has been lodged and the police have launched a hunt for the Delhi-based owner, Mohammed Dilshad, who had given the factory for rent.

Karti files anticipatory bail plea in HC

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Congress MP Karti Chidambaram has now approached the Delhi High Court with an anticipatory bail application in the Enforcement Directorate's (ED) money laundering case that is linked to the CBI case in the bribes for visa probe.

The fresh application comes a day after a special CBI court in Delhi denied him anticipatory bail in the case noting that the ED's interrogation might be affected.

On Saturday, the Congress leader filed a fresh anticipatory bail application in the Delhi High Court. The plea was mentioned in court on Saturday, following which it has now been listed for hearing on Monday before a Bench of Justice Poonam Bamba.

Kanpur clash main accused arrested

24 persons have been arrested in connection with the violence on Friday

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GHAZIABAD

The Uttar Pradesh Police on Saturday arrested the main accused in the clashes that erupted in Kanpur after Friday prayers. Hayat Zafar Hashmi and three others were arrested in the Hazratganj police station area of Lucknow. Police Commissioner Vijay Singh Meena said Mr. Hashmi, along with Javed Ahmed, Mohammad Rahil, and Mohammad Sufiyan, was hiding inside the office of the news portal that Mr. Ahmed operates.

So far, 24 persons have been arrested in connection with the violence that broke out after people of a community allegedly tried to get the market closed in protest against the alleged controversial remarks made by BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma against Prophet Muhammed during a television debate. The violence occurred on the day when President Ramnath Kovind, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and Governor Anandiben Patel were present in the district. Mr. Meena said any laxity on the part of the police would be investigated.

In police net: Hayat Zafar Hashmi (second from right) after being arrested in Kanpur on Saturday. • PTI

Three FIRs have been lodged in the case in which 40 people have been charged with rioting, and 1,000 others have been mentioned as "unidentified". Serious sections of IPC including 148, 149, 153, 307, 323, 336, 504, 507 and section 7 of the Criminal Amendment Act have been invoked in the FIRs.

Police sources said one of the video clippings purportedly showed that the miscreants had ferried stones on a hand-drawn cart. A meeting reportedly held in a local mosque ahead of the violence is under investigation.

Call for shutdown

Local sources said Mr. Hashmi, who heads a social organisation, MMA Johar Fans Association, had given a call to Muslims to court arrest on Friday against the remarks against the Prophet but following a meeting with the administration, had decided to just hold the bandh on June 3, pushing the protest march to June 5.

In the posters, it had been mentioned that non-Muslim establishments would be kept out of the June 3 shutdown, though some miscreants tried to force non-Muslim establishments also to be shut, leading to the violence.

Plea to identify minorities district-wise

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

A petition has been filed in the Supreme Court to identify minority communities district-wise, saying the recognition of Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists and Parsis nationally by the Centre as 'minorities' ignore the fact that 'majority' religious communities such as Hindus are actually "socially, economically, politically non-dominant and numerically inferior" in several States.

The writ petition challenged Section 2(c) of the National Commission for Minorities (NCM) Act 1992, which, according to it, gives "unbridled power" to the Centre to notify minorities in defiance of the Supreme Court's 11-judge Bench judgment in the *T.M.A Pai* case that linguistic and religious minorities should be identified at the State level and not the national level.

Basic rights violation

"Followers of Judaism, Bahaism and Hinduism, who are the real minorities in Ladakh, Mizoram, Lakshadweep, Kashmir, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, Punjab and Manipur cannot establish and administer educational institutions of their choice because of non-identification of 'minority' at State level. Their right under Articles 29-30 is being siphoned off illegally to the majority community in the State because Centre has not notified them 'minority' under NCM Act," the petition filed by Mathura resident Devkinandan Thakur, represented by advocate Ashutosh Dubey, argued.

CBI to send legal requests to several countries

Action against those involved in online child sexual abuse and circulation of child pornography

DEVESH K. PANDEY
NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is in the process of sending requests to several countries seeking information under the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaties (MLATs) about those involved in the online sexual abuse of minors and circulation of child pornographic material on social media platforms. The requests comprise more than 100 references.

The CBI probe in about two dozen cases registered last November has resulted in the identification of more than 80 Indian accused persons, 16 of whom have been arrested and nine chargesheets filed so far.

The agency has gathered inputs related to over 50 groups with more than 5,000 offenders, involving the nationals of about 100 countries, also including Turkey, Poland, Sudan, South Korea, Uganda, Kuwait, Italy, Germany, Spain, Australia and Romania. Through the informal channel, via Interpol, it had earlier sought information from several countries on the syndicates generating and circulating the Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM).

In November 2021, the CBI had searched the premises of Indian suspects at 77 locations in Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Bihar, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh.

Per-view payments

The accused were part of the groups that shared links, videos, pictures, texts, posts and hosting CSAM on social media groups and third-party storage/hosting platforms. Many of them received per-view payments for the videos and images.

Last week, taking up the issue of online child sexual abuse and exploitation, Interpol Secretary-General Jürgen Stock had told the World Economic Forum in Davos that there was a huge spike in such cases during the COVID-19 pandemic. He said reporting by private industry and public hotlines, apart from law enforcement exchanges, had shown a consistently rising number of online child abuse images, with 2021 being the worst year on record.

According to the Interpol, the self-generated content where a child victim is groomed and coerced into creating images and video of their abuse, has grown significantly. Live-streaming of child sexual exploitation for payment has also seen an increase in recent years.

The Interpol's International Child Sexual Exploitation (ICSE) database assists investigators across the world in identifying an average of seven child abuse victims every day. Since its creation, it has been instrumental in identifying and documenting over 12,500 offenders.

Based on inputs received through the Interpol, the CBI had earlier registered some cases against persons selling and circulating CSAM.

Congress dissidents keep off resort

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
JAIPUR

The Congress in Rajasthan faced trouble on Saturday with the emergence of a "dissident faction", which has questioned the Ashok Gehlot government and refused to join the MLAs sequestered at a resort near Udaipur ahead of the June 10 Rajya Sabha elections.

A total of 95 MLAs, including 11 Independents, have so far reached the Udaipur camp, arranged for protecting them from horse-trading.

Five of the MLAs, including a Minister, who won as Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) candidates but later merged with the Congress, and two Congress legislators have not joined the party camp in Udaipur.

Rajendra Singh Gudha, Minister of State for Sainik Kalyan, said the MLAs who had merged with the ruling Congress in 2019 were not given the respect which they deserved.

Congress MLAs Girraj Singh Malinga and Khiladi Lal Bairwa, both from Dholpur district, have also not joined the Udaipur camp.

Congress candidates Mukul Wasnik and Randeep Surjewala are set to win from the State with the ruling party having a sufficient number of first-preference votes, but the third candidate, Pramod Tiwari, faces contest from Independent candidate Subhash Chandra, backed by the BJP.

Ahead of reshuffle, Odisha Ministers resign *en masse*

New Ministers are scheduled to be sworn in at the Raj Bhavan today

STAFF REPORTER
BHUBANESWAR

Ministers of the Naveen Patnaik government in Odisha submitted their resignation *en masse* and the papers were forwarded to Governor Ganeshi Lal for his acceptance on Saturday.

A new set of Ministers is scheduled to take oath at the Raj Bhavan on Sunday. This is the first time that all Ministers were asked to put in their papers at one go in the State.

Speaker Surjya Narayan Patro also resigned from his post, which fuelled speculation that he might be taken in as a Minister in Sunday's reshuffle. While some Ministers are likely to be retained in the new Cabinet, controversial and non-performing

Naveen Patnaik

Ministers are set to be dropped. "Some MLAs have already received calls about their new assignments. They have been asked to be present in the capital city of Bhubaneswar," a senior BJD leader said.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik is carrying out the Cabinet reshuffle for the first time in his fifth term. The BJD had registered a landslide victory in the State election of 2019, winning 112 seats in the 147-member Assembly. The Bharatiya Janata Party and the Congress had to be content with 23 and nine seats, respectively.

After registering a victory in the Brajarajnagar byelection on Friday, the BJD's seat strength in the Assembly has gone up to 113. The regional party had won all the byelections held after the 2019 election, retaining Bijepur, Tirtol, Pipili and Brajarajnagar Assembly seats and snatching Balasore Sadar from the BJP.

"Never in the history of Odisha have all Ministers been asked to resign. What does it indicate? It is only Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik who matters in the party and nobody else. The victory in Brajarajnagar bypoll and Supreme Court's order in favour of beautification programme appear to have enhanced his confidence," said Rabi Das, veteran journalist and political commentator.

Mr. Patnaik is expected to give representation to all districts in the new Cabinet. Ministers whose leadership came under the scanner during the recent elections to the three-tier Panchayati Raj institutions and those who performed poorly in their respective constituencies will be dropped. Senior Cabinet Ministers who will be shown the door are likely to get key organisational posts to strengthen the party for the next Assembly election.

Bihar's BJP president says caste count should exclude Rohingya

It should not be used as cover for fake citizenship: Jaiswal

AMARNATH TEWARY
PATNA

Days after the Bihar Cabinet approved a caste count in the State, BJP State chief Sanjay Jaiswal on Saturday flagged two issues.

He said the caste count should ensure that Rohingya and "people from Bangladesh" should not be part of the exercise as a "cover for fake citizenship". Second, he said that 27% reservation for Other Backward Classes (OBC) should not be compromised as a large section of the Muslim population in the Seemanchal (border) areas of Bihar come from the forward castes but get OBC reservation.

Asked about the issues Mr. Jaiswal had raised, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar responded curtly with, "*Pata nahin* (I'm not aware)", and walked away.

Sanjay Jaiswal

Mr. Jaiswal said that BJP MLAs would raise these issues once the caste count modalities were cleared and came up in the Assembly. "It should not happen that through this caste count, Rohingya and people from Bangladesh get cover for fake citizenship. Proper care must be taken for this. Secondly, a large section of people in the Muslim community in the Seemanchal area come from upper caste (Sheikh) section but they get OBC reservation facility by declaring themselves from the backward (Kulharia) section. The Bihar government must take all these things into account, , otherwise the chances of 27% reservation for OBC people being compromised are very high," Mr. Jaiswal told presspersons on Saturday.

Union Minister and BJP MP from Begusarai Giriraj Singh echoed the Mr. Jaiswal's view, saying, "I'm in support of caste-based survey but Muslims should also be considered as a caste and their head count should take place."

BJP gives Nirahua another shot at Azamgarh

Manik Saha nominated for Town Bordowali

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
LUCKNOW/CHANDIGARH

The BJP has given Bhojpuri actor Dinesh Lal Yadav, popularly known as Nirahua, another shot at the Azamgarh Lok Sabha seat in Uttar Pradesh as the party on Saturday named him as its candidate for the byelection on June 23.

The BJP also named its nominees to seven Assembly seats in Tripura, Andhra Pradesh, Delhi and Jharkhand. The party has fielded Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha, who was recently appointed to the post, from Town Bordowali in Tripura.

The byelections in Azamgarh and Rampur were necessitated after the incumbent MPs, Akhilesh Yadav and Azam Khan, respectively, contested and won in the recent Uttar Pradesh Assembly election. In the 2019 Lok Sabha election, Mr. Dinesh Lal Yadav, actor-turned-politician, had emerged runner-up against the Samajwadi Party president.

While the SP is yet to officially declare its candidate, the BSP was the first to announce the name of its candidate Shah Alam, alias Guddu Jamali, a former MLA from Mubarakpur seat in Azamgarh. In Rampur, too, the SP is yet to officially name a candidate. The BSP has decided it will not contest in Rampur. The BJP has fielded Ghanshyam Singh Lodhi in Rampur.

The BJP named Rajesh Bhatia as its candidate for the Rajinder Nagar seat in Delhi.

Punjab ticket

The Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) and the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) on Saturday announced Kamaldeep Kaur, sister of Balwant Singh Rajoana who was convicted of the assassination of Punjab Chief Minister Beant Singh, as their joint candidate for the Sangrur Lok Sabha byelection.

The decision was taken after SAD president Sukhbir Singh Badal held talks on this issue with the BSP leadership and 'Panthic' organisations.

The AAP on Friday named Gurmail Singh, a party volunteer, as Sangrur candidate.

Assam CM threatens to sue Delhi's Deputy CM

Sisodia had accused Himanta of graft

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Saturday threatened to take Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia to court.

"Stop sermonising and I will see you soon in Guwahati as you will face criminal defamation," Mr. Sarma tweeted hours after Mr. Sisodia slammed him for COVID-related corruption.

Mr. Sisodia claimed the Chief Minister of Assam had awarded contracts for PPE kits, sanitiser and other COVID-related items to his wife Riniki Bhuyan Sarma's firm and to their son's business partners. Mr. Sarma's wife has dismissed the charges as "unfounded".

Congress suffers jolt in Punjab

Five leaders, including four former Ministers, leave party to join BJP

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

The Punjab Congress on Saturday suffered a jolt after five senior party leaders, including four former Ministers, left the Congress and joined the Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP) here.

The former Ministers who joined the BJP are Balbir Singh Sidhu, Sunder Sham Arora, Raj Kumar Verka and Gurpreet Singh Kangar. Kewal Dhillon, former Congress MLA from Barnala, also joined the BJP.

Mr. Balbir Sidhu was the Health Minister in the previous Congress government, while Sunder Sham Arora was the Industry and Commerce Minister.

Gurpreet Kangar held the position of Revenue Minister while Mr. Verka was the Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment and Minorities in the previous government.

They joined the BJP in the presence of Punjab party affairs incharge Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, State BJP President Ashwani Sharma and senior leaders Tarun Chugh and Sunil Jakhar.

A few other former MLAs of Shiromani Akali Dal also joined the BJP. They include MLAs Sarup Chand Singla and Mohinder Kaur Josh. Another former Congress MLA Amrik Dhilon also joined the BJP.

'Ungrateful to party'

Punjab Congress president Amarinder Singh Raja Warring said all those leaders who had deserted the party and joined the BJP had betrayed the Congress like an ungrateful son deserts his mother.

"Scared, they apparently wanted safe, secure political asylum somewhere and the BJP provided it", he said.

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21st CONVOCATION

1. National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences shall conduct its 21st Convocation at Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, Janpath, New Delhi on Monday, the 20th June 2022.
2. Candidates of the following sessions who have qualified DNB, DrNB and FNB Exit examinations shall be conferred with degree in this Convocation:

DNB / DrNB Final Exit Exam Session		
June 2019	June 2020	June 2021
December 2019		December 2020

FNB Exit Exam Session		
2019	2020	2021

3. Registration for the 21st Convocation has already been started at NBEMS website https://natboard.edu.in/
4. All qualified candidates of above-mentioned sessions are required to get themselves registered for the 21st convocation and pay the enrolment fee of Rs. 2,500/- through online portal only.
5. Candidates who have been declared as Gold Medal winners are invited to the Award Ceremony to receive their Gold Medals and Degree certificates in person. The specialty wise, session wise list of Gold Medalists is available at NBEMS website https://natboard.edu.in
6. Degree certificates to other qualified candidates (who have registered themselves) shall be sent through post at their correspondence address within 45 days of conduct of convocation.

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★ For PG admissions, the candidates should have completed 12 years of Schooling (10+2) and 3 years of Under Graduation programme. However, UG students can also applywith their marks up to 5th semester / up to 2nd year (non-semester),and their Provisional admission will be confirmed only if they successfully complete their UG Degree Programmes.
★ Candidates should Register and Apply for all the programmes **THROUGH ONLINE ONLY**, **via dedicated portal.** For more details, visit: **www.bdu.ac.in.**
★ Candidates applying for more than one programme will have to use separate application form(s) and shall pay separate Application Processing Fee i.e. Rs.250/- for SC/ST and Rs.500/- for others. University has rights to cancel the offering of any programme(s).
★ Entrance Examination details will be informed by the Departments concerned. Candidates are advised to contact accordingly.

LAST DATE FOR RECEIPT OF FILLED-IN APPLICATION FORMS:

- **BCA, B.Voc., 6-year & 5-year Integrated PG Programmes : Within 15 days of declaration of HSC/Plus 2 results.**
- **All Other Programmes : 11.07.2022**
- **Contact Number : 0431-2407072**

Prof. L. Ganesan
Registrar i/c

Tiruchirappalli: 05.06.2022 Advertisement Ref.No.05041/E1/Advt./2022

OUR BDU – OUR PRIDE: (PRIDE : Pride Resonates In Delivered Excellence)
DIPR/ 544 / DISPLAY /2022

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
Chennai Division
Office of the Sr Divisional Electrical Engineer
Electric Loco Shed, Royapuram

Online tenders are invited from the intending contractors by the undersigned through e-tender portal of Railways **https://www.ireps.gov.in** for the following work

Tender No.: M-RS-RPM-W-OT-22-23-3

Description of Work: Transportation of Railway Material by road covering all the feeding units/Railway Work Shops on Indian Railways.

Date & Time of Tender Closing: 24.06.2022 @ 15:00 hrs

Note: For Further details of tender, please visit **https://www.ireps.gov.in**

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/ Rolling Stock, Royapuram, For & On Behalf of the President of India

Follow us on : twitter.com/GMSRailway

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
SIGNAL & TELECOMMUNICATION WORKSHOP, PODANUR
E-TENDER

For and on behalf of the president of India, The Chief Workshop Manager, Signal and Telecommunication Workshop, Podanur, Coimbatore-641023, invites E-Tender for the following works as per Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) in the portal **www.ireps.gov.in** Tenderers/ Contractors intending to apply for the tender needs to get enrolled in the portal **www.ireps.gov.in** and only online tenders will be accepted. The Bid Security deposit should be made through online payment gateway or through available modes as mentioned in Tender document.

TENDER NOTICE No. SGW/S.203/33/ 2022/WO.603 dt: 02.06.2022

1. Name of work: Manufacture and supply of GRS Apparatus case (Full) to Drg No. CWM 08097 (Alt 2 or later) consisting of Sub assemblies/Components-500 Nos.

2. Approximate cost of the work: ₹ 73,97,125/-

3. Earnest Money to be deposited: ₹ 1,48,000/-

4. Completion period of work: 06 Months

5. Date and time of closing of tender: 15.00 Hrs of 24.06.2022

6. Website particulars: http://www.ireps.gov.in

For further details, visit internet site **www.ireps.gov.in** or contact office of the Chief Workshop Manager, Signal and Telecommunication workshop, Podanur, Coimbatore-641023.

Chief Workshop Manager, S&T Work shop, Podanur.

Follow us on : twitter.com/GMSRailway

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, P.H.DIVISION, BERHAMPUR
Mail ID - eephbam@gmail.com / eephbam@nic.in
Government of Odisha - "e" PROCUREMENT NOTICE
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING
Bid Identification No.SEPHBAM-15/2022-23 Dt.26.05.2022

1. Name of the work	:-	Installation, commissioning of 3.0MLD capacity WTP for Improvement of water supply to Chikiti NAC.
2. Estimated cost	:-	Rs.226.28 Lakh (appros.)
3. Period of completion	:-	11 (Eleven) Months
4. Date and Time of availability of Bid document in the portal	:-	From 11.00 Hrs. of Dt. 08.06.2022 to 17.30 Hrs. of Dt.23.06.2022.
5. Last date/Time for Bidding in the portal	:-	17.30 Hrs. of Dt.23.06.2022
6. Date of opening of Tender	:-	On Dt.24.06.2022 at 11.00 Hrs.
7. Name and address of the Officer Inviting tender	:-	Superintending Engineer, P.H.Division, Berhampur.

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal "https://tendersodisha.gov.in"

Superintending Engineer, P.H.Division, Berhampur.

C-442 : OIPR-13014/11/0006/2223

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, KENDRAPARA-JAJPUR
AT/PO - NAYABAZAR, CUTTACK - 753004, Tel No. 0671-2444688, Email - serw_kpd@yahoo.com

No:- Tender Online RCK - 16/22 Letter No.- 1268 / Date:- 03.06.2022

e - Procurement NOTICE

1. Name of the Work	:	Tender for the road projects of Constituency wise R.D. Roads developed under MMSY Scheme during 2021-22 in the Dist. of Kendrapara-Jajpur
2. Class of Contractor	:	
a) Estimated cost more than Rs.6.00 Crore & upto Rs.15.00 Crore	:	Special Class & Super Class (of Odisha PWD) & relevant class of other licensing authorities.
b) Estimated cost more than Rs.3.00 Crore & upto Rs.6.00 Crore	:	A & Special Class (of Odisha PWD) & relevant class of other licensing authorities.
c) Estimated cost more than Rs.40.00 Lakh & upto Rs.3.00 Crore	:	B & A Class (of Odisha PWD) & relevant class of other licensing authorities.
3. Time for Completion	:	As specified in the Column-6 of the Annexure
4. Detail Projects	:	As per Annexure attached
5. Other Details	:	

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding From	To	Last Date & Time of seeking tender clarification	Date & Time of opening of tender Technical Bid	Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Kendrapara-Jajpur	**Tender Online RCK- 16/22**	**06.06.2022 at 11.00 A.M.**	**20.06.2022 to 05.00 P.M.**	**19.06.2022 up to 05.00 P.M.**	**21.06.2022 at 11.30 A.M.**	Will be intimated later

Further details can be seen from the website **www.tendersorissa.gov.in**

Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Kendrapara-Jajpur

O-405 : OIPR-25129/11/0015/2223

Firm seeks release of kiwi shipment

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

A Mumbai-based company recently moved the Bombay High Court seeking release of kiwi fruit from detention as there is a suspicion that they are from Iran.

A Vacation Bench was hearing a plea filed by Mahalaxmi Construction Aids for the release of the fruit from detention of 45 days.

As per the Department of Revenue, the fruit has arrived from Iran and there is a ban by the Government of India for its import from Iran on the ground that they are not fit for consumption. As per the affidavit by the Union of India, "there is a suspicion that the goods, ie. fresh Kiwi were indicative of Iran origin. "

The advocate appearing for the company contended that the fruit is a perishable commodity, and, for the past 45 days, the consignment has been lying in cold storage and there is no authentic evidence that the goods had arrived from Iran. However, the prosecutor argued that the investigation is in progress and authorities will complete the investigation within two weeks and submit the report.

The matter is posted to be heard on June 13.

Confusion over mask rules in Maharashtra

Not mandatory, but people 'must' wear them as precaution

STAFF REPORTER
MUMBAI

As the number of COVID-19 cases continues to rise in Maharashtra, the State government has made masks a "must" in closed public spaces.

However, confusion persisted as Health Minister Rajesh Tope told presspersons on Friday afternoon that the masks had not been made mandatory, but people were urged to wear them as a precaution against the spread of the novel coronavirus.

Earlier, in a letter to all district and municipal corporation heads, State Health Secretary Pradeep Vyas said, "Mask in closed public spaces like trains, buses, cinemas, auditorium, offices, hospitals, colleges, schools is a must." Mr. Vyas's letter comes against the background of an alarming letter from the Union Health Secretary to the State government voicing caution over the rising number of COVID-19 cases in six districts of the State.

Directions from Mr. Vyas advocated the need to prioritise vaccination in communities which still have vaccine hesitancy. He has also asked the district administration to increase RT-PCR testing.

More protection: People won't be penalised for not wearing masks as of now, says Health Minister Rajesh Tope. •FILE PHOTO

Mr. Tope clarified that the word "must" created confusion in the minds of people and it was used only as a precaution and the government had not made masks mandatory now. "The people won't be penalised for not wearing masks as of now. It is suggested that they wear it to safeguard themselves from the virus," he said.

New cases

On June 4, Maharashtra recorded 1,357 new COVID cases, out of which Mumbai contributed 889. The Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation area too crossed the three-figure mark by registering 104 new cases. The graph of new cases is on the rise for over a week now. Mr. Tope said there was no need to panic as though the case number was rising, there was no increase in hospitalisation. "People are getting well within a week due to immunity. The State government will study the situation in 15 to 20 days and based on that, decisions will be taken," he said, adding that the surge was limited to the Mumbai Metropolitan Region and some places in Raigad and Pune districts.

Earlier in the week, Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray held a meeting of the COVID task force. Mr. Thackeray called for voluntary following of COVID- appropriate behaviour to avoid restrictions and lockdowns.

Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar stressed that unless people voluntarily follow the norms, mask mandate may return.

Housing scheme lags in urban areas

Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana has a completion rate of only 50% in urban areas

DAMINI NATH
SOBHANA K. NAIR
NEW DELHI

The Narendra Modi government's flagship programme, the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G), aimed at constructing houses in rural areas, has a completion rate of 67.72% at the end of six years since it began in 2016, in contrast to the urban version of the scheme that started a year ahead but is lagging behind with a 50% completion rate.

The PMAY-G was initiated in November 2016 with a target of completing 2.7 crore houses. So far, according to the database maintained by the Union Rural Development Ministry, 1.8 crore houses have been constructed, which is 67.72% of the target.

The Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U) was initiated in June 2015 with a target of constructing 1.2 crore homes. According to the latest numbers from the Union Urban Development Ministry, only 60 lakh units have been completed to date.

Delayed by pandemic

Housing and Urban Affairs Secretary Manoj Joshi blamed the pandemic for the slowdown in the PMAY-U. "The completion rate for houses sanctioned before the COVID-19 pandemic stood around 80%," he told *The Hindu*. In urban areas, issues such as a lack of clear titles and other land documents tend to crop up, he added. The pandemic has sharply hit the completion rates in the PMAY-G too. According to the Rural Development Ministry's data for the financial year 2021-22, only seven lakh houses were constructed as opposed to the pre-pandemic financial year of 2019-20, when 49 lakh were completed.

Slow pace: The PMAY-G was initiated in November 2016 with a target of completing 2.7 crore houses. •FILE PHOTO

Six States account for 70% of the target units – West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. Out of them only two States – Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal – have a completion rate above the national average.

The PMAY-G brings huge political dividends for the BJP-led government at the Centre, and is the reason for a conflict between the Centre and the States.

Recently, the Centre withheld funds for the scheme in two States ruled by BJP rivals – West Bengal and Chhattisgarh. The Centre withheld the funds to West Bengal for the ongoing financial year

SPECIAL

following complaints from BJP MPs that the Mamata Banerjee government was repackaging the scheme as the "Bangla Awas Yojana".

Funds for Chhattisgarh were withheld because the State failed to provide its share of contribution for the scheme; the Centre pays 60% and the States have to bear 40% of the cost.

While Chhattisgarh accepts that it defaulted on the payment because of a lack of funds, the West Bengal government has taken a more strident stand.

"This is nothing but an economic blockade. The Centre itself repackaged an existing scheme – the Indira Awas Yojana as the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana. Assuming but not admitting that the Trinamool Congress government changed the name of the scheme The revenue in the Central pool also comes from the States," party spokesperson and Rajya Sabha member Sukendu Sekhar Ray said.

'Unable to get loan'

Chhattisgarh Minister T.S. Singh Deo said the State was unable to get a loan to fund its share. "On Thursday, we completed the formalities of a loan from Punjab National Bank worth ₹762 crore to cover our contribution for the scheme," Mr. Deo said.

The completion rate for PMAY-G in Chhattisgarh is 67%.

Out of the six States accounting for 70% of the target units, Bihar has one of the lowest completion rates at 59.4%.

"Bihar has 16 lakh houses pending from the previous Indira Awas Yojana scheme. It was decided that the backlog will be cleared before taking up construction under the PMAY-G scheme, which is why their numbers are low," an official said.

YouTube, Twitter told to take down ad

Portrayal of women causes outrage

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Information and Broadcasting Ministry on Saturday asked YouTube and Twitter to take down from their platforms the videos of a derogatory advertisement of a deodorant, stating that it was detrimental to the portrayal of women.

The Ministry sent e-mails to both the social media platforms, drawing their attention to the video uploaded on Friday. It had registered close to a million views on YouTube and was also being circulated on Twitter.

"The above mentioned video is detrimental to the portrayal of women in the interest of decency or morality, and in violation of Rule 3(1)(b)(ii) of the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021, which *inter alia* provides that the users shall not host, display, upload, modify, publish, transmit, store, update or share any information which is insulting or harassing on the basis of gender," the Ministry said. The advertisement had been broadcast on TV, prompting the Advertising Standards Council of India to direct the advertiser to suspend its broadcast immediately.

Triggered outrage

The "Layer'r Shot" advertisement triggered an outrage on Twitter, with a large number of users demanding action against it for double entendre.

It showed four men discussing who among them would use the last remaining deodorant bottle, as a woman passed by.

The Delhi Commission for Women (DCW) wrote to Union I&B Minister Anurag Thakur seeking action against the deodorant brand for "misogynistic advertisement" that promoted "gang-rape culture".

The Commission also issued a notice to the Delhi Police to register a FIR and get the content removed from mass media platforms.

DCW chairperson Swati Maliwal asked for a robust system that kept a check on such advertisements.

With prices up, a downshift in sales of entry-level cars

During financial year 2021-22, premium car sales grew 38% year-on-year, while sales of lower-priced cars rose by about 7%

YUTHIKA BHARGAVA
NEW DELHI

The market for entry-level hatchbacks in India has shrunk significantly over the past few years as rising prices have combined with relative economic distress to deter consumers in the "low-cost vehicle" buying segment.

At the same time, the market share of higher-priced cars has continued to climb on the back of "resilient incomes" and lower sensitivity to price increases among "affluent buyers", according to industry officials and automobile sector analysts.

Cars priced above ₹10 lakh, which fall in the premium segment, sold five times faster than those with lower sticker prices last fiscal, cornering about 30% of the passenger vehicle market, up from 24% in the 2018-19 financial year, Crisil Research said in a note.

During last fiscal year, premium car sales grew 38% year-on-year, while sales of lower-priced cars rose by

SPECIAL

about 7%.

"The key reasons for this were a stark difference in income sentiment of the respective target consumers, a sharper rise in the prices of lower-end cars, fewer options (some manufacturers exited the segment), and a slew of new launches that have increased the preference for higher-priced cars," Crisil Research observed. In India, which has been touted as a small car market, the sales of the entry-level hatchback segment are largely driven by first-time users. With the pandemic impacting the income sentiment significantly for entry-level car buyers, purchases and upgrades have been getting postponed.

The cars priced above ₹10 lakh sold five times faster than those with lower sticker prices last fiscal •ISTOCKPHOTO

As per Crisil Research estimates, the employee cost of large and medium companies – a proxy for income sentiment among affluent buyers of higher-priced car – has increased by about 20%-25%, outpacing that of small and medium-sized companies (0-10%), which typically account for a larger proportion of lower-priced car buyers.

"Over the past three years, the market at the lower end... for people who use either two-wheelers or smaller hatchbacks... that market has been shrinking considerably, which is worrying," said R.C. Bhargava, chairman, Maruti Suzuki.

Mr. Bhargava pointed out that only 11.5 lakh units of hatchbacks were sold in India last fiscal, about 25% lower than the 15.5 lakh units sold in 2018-19.

Going forward, Crisil expects the share of higher-priced cars to remain higher at 30%, versus 25% previously, due to "resilient incomes of affluent buyers and traction for new models", and the share of higher-priced two-wheelers to remain above 40% of the market.

Surrogacy law faces challenge in court

Its provisions deny choice and privacy and are discriminatory, say petitioners

JAGRITI CHANDRA
NEW DELHI

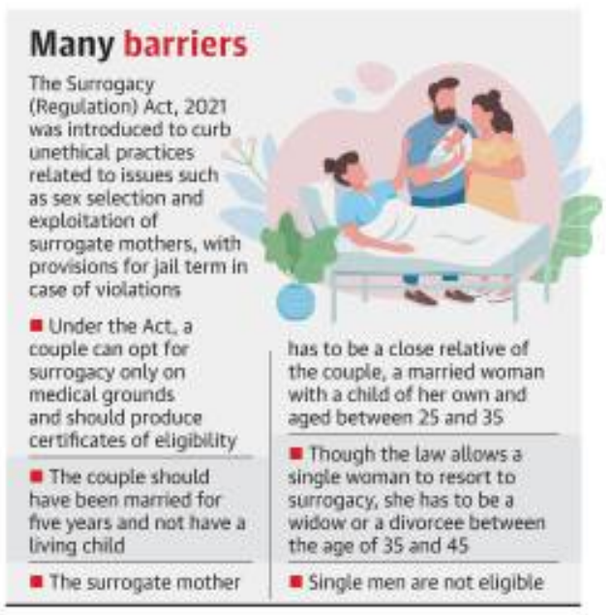
The trauma and fatigue of her first pregnancy coinciding with the second wave of COVID-19 last year, juggling multiple responsibilities as a new mother and a desire to resume her practice as a psychologist, are the reasons why a 31-year-old married woman wishes to "outsource" the birth of her second child and "live freely".

She has approached the Delhi High Court, along with another male petitioner, to question why marital status, age or gender should be the criteria for prohibiting someone from commissioning a surrogacy.

Under the Surrogacy (Regulation) Act, 2021 a married couple can opt for surrogacy only on medical grounds. The law defines a couple as a married Indian "man and woman" and prescribes an age band of 23 to 50 for the woman and 26 to 55 for the man to opt for surrogacy.

The couple should not have a child of their own. Though the law allows a single woman to choose surrogacy, she has to be a widow or a divorcee between the age of 35 and 45. Single men are not eligible.

The woman petitioner, who does not want to be identified, and Delhi-based lawyer Karan Balraj Mehta, who is single, have challenged in the court the surrogacy law and the Assisted Reproductive Technology (Regulation) Act, 2021 which provides a regulatory framework for surrogacy.


Many barriers
The Surrogacy (Regulation) Act, 2021 was introduced to curb unethical practices related to issues such as sex selection and exploitation of surrogate mothers, with provisions for jail term in case of violations
Under the Act, a couple can opt for surrogacy only on medical grounds and should produce certificates of eligibility
The couple should have been married for five years and not have a living child
The surrogate mother has to be a close relative of the couple, a married woman with a child of her own and aged between 25 and 35
Though the law allows a single woman to resort to surrogacy, she has to be a widow or a divorcee between the age of 35 and 45
Single men are not eligible

They have also challenged the ban on commercial surrogacy. Last week, the court sought a response from the Centre to their petition.

"My first pregnancy was not a cakewalk. No pregnancy is, but mine came after a miscarriage and during COVID-19 so it was a particularly stressful and traumatic time for me, and therefore, if I want a second child I would rather outsource it," the petitioner told *The Hindu* on the phone. The mother of a nine-month-old says women like her who are in a marriage and medically fit should also be allowed the option of surrogacy.

She believes that a second child is "necessary for the well-being of the first child", but the decision for her to have one is a "hard no" because the "thought of a second pregnancy scares me" and "to navigate my pregnancy, my first child, my house is just not conceivable at the moment".

She also does not want to put off her career any more. "My immediate concern is to get back to work, but if I have to go through the rigmarole of pregnancy again, you have to let go of a lot of things. "

Denial of choice

What agitates her is the denial of choice under the law.

"We should be able to live the way we want, have the choice to make the choices we want to. Such decisions should not be contingent on medical situation, marital status or sexuality. If you want to have a biological child, you should have the option to do it via surrogacy to live freely," she says.

Her co-petitioner, who is a 32-year-old single man, says that the two laws deny the "freedom given to us under the Constitution to exercise our reproductive choice".

" Although I am not married yet, I wish to have the choice irrespective. These laws discriminate against men like me," he says. He feels that perhaps his profession which exposes him to cases of marital discord could have played a role in his decision.

Since the news of his petition broke, he has been inundated with messages from all over the country from single men who have similar stories and say they are watching the case with bated breath. He says that under the current law, there is hardly any privacy.

"I will obviously not go to my sister or my aunt, which means I have to go looking for the right person in my extended family but discussing such an issue can be awkward."

The law requires that the surrogate mother should be genetically related to those seeking a child as it permits only altruistic surrogacy .

Mr. Balraj says he has been interested in surrogacy for a long time.

But his 82-year-old grandmother is a little worried about such reproductive choices. "What will happen to marriages," she wonders.

Campaign deadline for PwD accessibility vague

Cut-off decided earlier was June 2022

DAMINI NATH
NEW DELHI

With its deadline of June 2022 almost up, the status of targets under the Accessible India Campaign (AIC) is likely to be discussed during a meeting of the Central Advisory Board on Disability later this month, according to Social Justice and Empowerment Ministry sources.

A Board was likely to assess the progress made by the States so far and the possibility of an extension, an official of the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) said. Another official said the meeting of the Board was scheduled for June 24.

The campaign, which was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on December 3, 2015, aimed at making a proportion of government buildings, transport and websites accessible for persons with disabilities (PwD) by deadlines in 2017, 2018 and 2019. However, the deadline was extended to March 2020 and then again to June 2022.

The DEPwD had written to the Chief Secretaries of all States and Union Territories recently asking about the progress made on the various targets and received a reply only from Tamil Nadu as of this week, the department official said.

Tamil Nadu had asked for an extension of a year to complete the targets, the official added. Another reminder would be sent to the States soon and the replies would be presented before the board, the official said. Incidentally, the Board, which is chaired by the Social Justice Minister and is required to meet once every six months by the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, has not had a meeting since November 2020.

A person with a disability finds it difficult to climb up steps at a railway station.

The official attributed the delay to the COVID-19 pandemic.

According to a reply by the Ministry in the Rajya Sabha in February, 48.5% of State government buildings had been made accessible, almost at the target of 50%. Progress on public transport was less, with only 8.73% of buses fully accessible as against the target of 25%. All 35 international airports were accessible and all A and B category railway stations too, the data showed.

SUDOKU

1		6			4			
		5					7	
4			9		7			1
	1	2		4				
		3	8		9	7		
				3		5	1	
2			4		3			6
	8					2		
			1			9		7

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

8	9	4	5	6	1	7	2	3
2	3	1	9	7	4	5	8	6
5	7	6	2	3	8	9	4	1
4	2	9	8	1	6	3	5	7
1	5	3	7	4	9	2	6	8
6	8	7	3	5	2	1	9	4
3	4	8	1	2	5	6	7	9
9	1	5	6	8	7	4	3	2
7	6	2	4	9	3	8	1	5

Russian forces pummel eastern Ukraine

Moscow deploys reinforcements, airstrikes to close in on two cities and seal the fate of Luhansk

ASSOCIATED PRESS
KYIV

Reinforced Russian troops backed by airstrikes pummeled a portion of eastern Ukraine on Saturday, blowing up bridges and shelling apartment buildings as they fought to capture two cities that would put a contested province under Moscow's control, Ukrainian officials said.

Russian and Ukrainian forces battled street-by-street in Sievierodonetsk and neighbouring Lysychansk, regional governor Serhiy Haidai said. Russian strikes killed four persons, including a mother and child, in the nearby village of Hirske, Mr. Haidai said.

The cities are the last major areas of Luhansk province still held by Ukraine. The Russian attacks are central to the Kremlin's reduced wartime goal of seizing the entire Donbas region.

Stroll on the tank: A dog on top of a destroyed Russian battle tank put on public display in Kyiv on Saturday. • GETTY IMAGES

Russia also escalated attacks around Bakhmut, a city in Donesk, the other province that makes up the Donbas, the Ukrainian military said as the war reached its 101st day.

In recent days, the Russians focused on capturing Sievierodonetsk, which had a prewar population of about 1,00,000. At one point, they held 90% of the city, but Ukrainian soldiers clawed back some ground, Mr. Haidai said on Friday. Western military analysts said Russia was devoting significant troop strength and firepower to what British officials described as a "creeping advance" in the Donbas.

"The combined use of air and artillery strikes has been a key factor in Russia's recent tactical successes in the region," the U.K. Ministry of Defence said in a Saturday assessment. The British Ministry warned that after launching so many guided missiles, Russia was employing unguided missiles that have "almost certainly caused substantial collateral damage and civilian casualties."

The Ukrainian military staff reported that Ukrainian forces repulsed nine attacks in the Donbas over 24 hours.

While Russian forces are concentrated on seizing the Donbas in the east, Ukrainian troops have staged counterattacks to try to regain territory in their country's south.

A Russian rocket hit an agricultural site on Saturday in the Odesa region, wounding two persons, according to a regional military chief. Odesa is home to Ukraine's largest seaport and therefore vital to the country's ability to ship grain and other commodities. The rocket attack came hours after Ukraine's Foreign Minister, Dmytro Kuleba, tweeted: "Ukraine is ready to create necessary conditions to resume exports from the port of Odesa. The question is how to make sure that Russia doesn't abuse the trade route to attack the city."

Ukrainian presidential adviser Mykhailo Podolyak said in an interview that Russia is suffering significantly fewer military casualties compared to the first six weeks of the war. The lower figures might make Russian commanders "think that they are fighting successfully," the website *Meduza* quoted Mr. Podolyak as saying.

Villagers accuse Myanmar junta of torching buildings

'Hundreds of houses set afire during a three-day raid'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BANGKOK

Myanmar junta troops have torched hundreds of buildings during a three-day raid in the country's north, local media and residents said, as the military struggles to crush resistance to its rule.

The Sagaing region has seen fierce fighting and bloody reprisals since the coup last year, with local "People's Defence Force" (PDF) members clashing regularly with junta troops.

Analysts say the informal militia has surprised junta forces with its effectiveness, and the military has on numerous occasions called in air strikes to support its troops on the ground.

Troops torched hundreds of buildings in the villages of Kinn, Upper Kinn and Ke Taung over three days last week, locals and media reports said.

Min Aung Hlaing

On May 26, villagers in Kinn fled as soldiers approached and began shooting into the air, said one resident who requested anonymity.

"The next morning we saw smoke rising from our village before they left.

"Over 200 houses were burned down... my house was totally burned down, only the concrete foundation is left."

Drone footage purporting to show the aftermath obtained by *AFP* showed columns of smoke rising into the sky from the villages, set along a roughly eight-kilometre stretch of the Chindwin river.

The junta has previously rebuffed claims its troops have torched houses, accusing "terrorist" PDF fighters of starting the fires.

In a speech on Tuesday, junta chief Min Aung Hlaing said "efforts were made to minimise the casualties as much as possible in performing the counterattacks to terror acts."

"Now, the country is in tranquillity," he said, according to state newspaper the *Global New Light of Myanmar*.

Agency seeks arrest of Shehbaz, son

FIA probing money laundering case worth $75 mn against Pak. PM, Punjab CM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LAHORE

Pakistan's Federal Investigation Agency, which is probing Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and his son and Punjab Chief Minister Hamza Shehbaz in a multi-billion rupees money laundering case, on Saturday requested the court to allow their arrest for further investigation.

The court, however, extended their pre-arrest bail until June 11.

The FIA also filed an interim investigation report against the premier and other suspects in the $75 million money laundering case against them.

Mr. Shehbaz and Mr. Hamza appeared before the Special Court amidst high security.

Shehbaz Sharif

"An FIA prosecutor submitted an interim investigation report and sought arrest of prime suspects – Prime Minister Shehbaz and Punjab Chief Minister Hamza – arguing that their custody is needed for further probe in the case as they have not joined the investigation," a court official said.

The Prime Minister's counsel Advocate Amjad Pervez strongly objected to the FIA's plea and termed it a "false assertion of the agency". He said that the FIA had already investigated the father and the son when they were in jail in Lahore.

He said that his clients had not only joined the investigation when they were in jail but also appeared before the investigators at the FIA office.

Mr. Shehbaz and his sons – Mr. Hamza and Mr. Suleman – were booked in November 2020 under various sections of the Prevention of Corruption Act and Anti Money Laundering Act.

The FIA probe said it has detected 28 benami accounts, allegedly of the Shehbaz family, through which an amount of 14 billion Pakistani Rupees was laundered from 2008 to 2018. The FIA examined the money trail of 17,000 credit transactions. The amount was kept in "hidden accounts" and given to Mr. Shehbaz in his personal capacity, according to the charges.

Sri Lanka in diplomatic spat over confiscated Russian plane

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
COLOMBO

Sri Lanka's main airport on Saturday denied the island nation's government was behind a decision to detain an Aeroflot aircraft, after Russia lodged a diplomatic protest over the move.

The Airbus A330 was seized at the Bandaranaike International Airport on Thursday, the same day it arrived from Moscow, after a directive from a court in the capital Colombo.

Flight SU289 was about to return to the Russian capital with 191 passengers and 13 crew aboard.

Sri Lanka's top envoy was summoned to the Russian Foreign Ministry on Friday to receive a "resolute protest" over the detention.

But Airport and Aviation Services, which runs Bandaranaike airport, said the dispute was "purely of a commercial nature" and should not be subject to state involvement.

Commercial dispute

The plane was stopped on the orders of Colombo Commercial Court in response to a commercial dispute filing by Celestial Aviation Trading 10 Limited of Ireland. The case is to be heard on Wednesday.

The aircraft is parked at Bandaranaike International Airport and its passengers have been booked into hotels.

Aeroflot suspended all international flights in March following Western sanctions over Moscow's invasion of Ukraine, but resumed operations to Colombo later.

Russia's civil aviation body had recommended airlines operating rental planes registered in foreign countries cease international flights to avoid their seizure. It remains unclear whether the detention of flight SU289 was related to those sanctions.

Tiananmen day 'muted' in Hong Kong

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
HONG KONG

Hong Kong authorities strove on Saturday to stop any public commemoration of the 33rd anniversary of the Tiananmen crackdown, with police warning gatherings could break the law as China vies to remove all reminders of the deadly event.

Authorities have warned the public that "participating in an unauthorised assembly" on Saturday risks a maximum penalty of five years' imprisonment. They have also closed large parts of Victoria Park, once the site of packed annual candlelight vigils.

THE HINDU GROUP

Enough of saving this inconsiderate planet.

Planet earth. The prima donna among all planets. The only place where life can exist in this galaxy (as we know it). The humans were granted this planet with several lofty promises. Clear blue skies. Pristine waters. Green grasslands. Fragrant flowers. Serene glaciers spanning millions of kilometres. Lush rainforests. We were teased with a trailer of perfectly sunny summers, well-timed autumns, showers of bounty, and winters that did not eat away into spring. We had a free hand too. To change everything we did not fancy, feast on what we found delicious, make homes wherever we pleased, mark our territories, kill anything that came in the way (or even kill them to adorn our homes, menus and egos). We became the rightful rulers of this vast planet. We had the ability to desire, and the power to implement.

But then, the planet began acting like a leader elected to power. Its manifesto of endless happy hours has long been forgotten. The seasons come and go without any warning. The glaciers cannot take the heat anymore. Rainforests are burning down at the slightest provocation. The rivers are drying up or turning black. Several species are extinct. This surely cannot be the good place we were once promised. The entire human race has been scammed.

It is time to look further in the universe. Another planet that will never run short of resources and replenish itself a million times over, even though we change everything about it. Where we superior humans can lead reckless lives with absolutely no care in the world. Kill, destroy, pollute, eat, build, repeat. Let us find that utopia and relocate from this wretched planet, in our own private spaceships that can hold all of our carefully curated possessions. Leave earth to its sorry fate. We will travel somewhere far to find our new paradise to rule over. Never having to worry about trivial matters such as conservation.

THE HINDU

For those of us humans who aren't daydreaming or building fancy spaceships, it is time to wake up and act. To protect the only planet we have.

#OnlyOneEarth

THE HINDU GROUP

Greener pastures can wait.

Let us make the one we live in greener.

We all have a role to play in protecting the only planet we have. Have you made a difference to the environment and the lives around you? Then we would like to hear from you. And work with you. *The Hindu* invites individuals and organisations, who, with their sustainability efforts, have made a positive change to the society. Write to us at **oneearth@thehindu.co.in** and we will feature your efforts. Let us work together to create relevant conversations to inspire the society and make a difference.

THE HINDU

#OnlyOneEarth

SNAPSHOTS

Cockroach courtship
The evolution of cockroaches to avoid sweet-tasting poison has disrupted their mating process. The rapid adaptive changes in sensory traits in female German cockroaches has caused an aversion to glucose. Therefore, they are less likely to stick around to mate with males who offer edible gifts that degrade into sugar.

Star temperature
A Japanese weather satellite accidentally witnessed the 'great dimming' of the red supergiant star — Betelgeuse —that began in late 2019. The weather satellite, Himawari-8, observed a cloud of dust and a drop in the star's temperature by 140°C, offering important clues to what happened to the star.

Spillover effect
The number of scholars who declare affiliations in both China and the United States on research papers has dropped over 20% in the past three years. That slump seems to be part of a pattern of waning United States-China collaboration that could be due to COVID-19 pandemic and political tensions between the two countries.

Star or satellite?
Astronomers are worried about the impact of satellite 'megaconstellations', such as SpaceX's Starlink internet network. There are thousands of satellites already, and plans are in place to launch tens of thousands more. If that happens, at some latitudes and times of year, many 'stars' visible to the naked eye will actually be satellites and not stars.

Monkeypox virus mutates at a higher rate

The mutation pattern does not conclusively prove sustained human-to-human transmission

R. PRASAD

As of June 1, 2022 over 550 lab-confirmed monkeypox cases have been reported from 30 countries, the World Health Organization (WHO) said at a press briefing.

These countries are predominantly in Europe and North America, which are not endemic for monkeypox virus.

With 190 cases as on May 30, the outbreak in the U.K. is the largest so far, with Spain (132 cases) and Portugal (132 cases) being the other countries with a large number of monkeypox cases.

The WHO once again stressed that the large number of cases detected in more than two dozen countries within a short time interval suggests that there "may have been undetected transmission for some time".

The cases have predominantly been reported among men who have sex with men presenting with symptoms at sexual health clinics.

The two rave parties in Belgium and Portugal have turned out to be superspreader events. In a statement released on May 31, 2022 the European Union underlined the link between these parties and cases.

It said, "Multiple countries have reported cases which appear to be linked to events taking place in Spain (Madrid and the Canary Islands) and Belgium (Antwerp)."

However, cases have been reported in people with no epidemiological link to the rave parties, travel history to countries in Africa or even contact with other people with infection, the statement noted.

Highly speculative

Though the first case that was detected on May 7, 2022 in the U.K. was in a person who had just returned from Nigeria, samples of at least two people, one in Canada and another in Portugal, that were collected prior to the return of the U.K. person had tested positive for monkeypox virus.

The notion that virus may have been imported from Nigeria is "highly speculative", Christian Happi from Nigeria's African Centre of Excellence for Genomics of Infectious Diseases told *Science*.

Epidemiologist Ifedayo Adetifa, head of the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control also told *Science* that "there's too much emphasis for whatever reasons in Western capitals and news media about trying to hold somebody responsible for a particular outbreak. We don't think those narratives are helpful".

So far in 2022, seven African countries have reported 1,392 suspected and 44 confirmed monkeypox cases to the WHO, which are slightly fewer than half of cases reported last year.

47 mutations

Meanwhile, Dr. Andrew Rambaut from the University of Edinburgh found 47 mutations in the virus genome based on an analysis of the sequences from the current outbreak outside Africa and comparing it with the earlier genomes from samples from patients in 2017-19 in Singapore, Israel, Nigeria and the U.K.

"Forty-seven substitutions in the space of three-four years is an unexpectedly large number. As MPXV [monkeypox virus] is considered a zoonotic virus with limited human-to-human transmission, this long branch may be evidence of adaptation to humans allowing for the sustained transmission that is now observed," he said in virological.org.

But Dr. Vinod Scaria, a senior scientist at Delhi's Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (CSIR-IGIB), says the mutation rate of monkeypox virus has not been well established.

"The number (about two per year) comes from the limited data from other poxviruses which have been studied," he explains. "The inaccuracies also stem from the fact that monkeypox virus is primarily a zoonotic disease and genomes have not previously come from sustained human-human transmission in the past."

About the 47 mutations that appear in the genomes now being sequenced, he says, "While the number of mutations look significantly large from what is expected, this could mean many things – the mutation rate estimates for monkeypox could be different for different hosts (animals vs humans), and many intermediate paths of evolution and their representatives have not been sequenced to accurately ascertain the evolutionary path of these specific isolates."

Sustained transmission?

According to Dr. Rambaut, many of the mutations arise due to the action of a particular enzyme that is present in the host to prevent the virus from multiplying. Based on the mutation pattern seen in the genome of the virus isolated from people since 2017 is "indicative of replication in humans", says Dr. Rambaut. And the "inheritance of the specific changes that occurred between 2017 and 2018, and then in the viruses from 2022 means that there has been sustained human-to-human transmission since at least 2017".

However, Dr. Scaria is not convinced that the presence of the mutation pattern is indicative of sustained human-to-human transmission.

He says, "The evidence suggests many of the mutations match the profile of a unique set of enzymes. Whether this was in the primary host, an unknown intermediate host or in humans is still unknown and something difficult to conclusively prove with the data at hand, as we do not have genomes which span the period between the last major outbreak to present."

While the presence of 47 mutations does indicate that the monkeypox virus mutates at a much higher rate than the previously believed rate of two-three mutations per year, the mutations do not necessarily suggest that the monkeypox virus has become more transmissible, says Dr. Scaria.

"The mutations we see do not change the amino acids in protein. All adaptations to evolutionary pressure typically happen due to changes in the amino acid, which we don't see here. This suggests that the mutations we see are relics of the enzyme action and not necessarily an evolutionary process or adaptations of the virus," Dr. Scaria explains.

"Also, unlike the SARS-CoV-2 virus, which relies on a particular receptor to gain entry into cells, the monkeypox viruses don't rely on receptors for cell entry. So a few mutations are unlikely to significantly increase infectivity," he added.

But the presence of 47 mutations in the virus does point to sustained transmission in the last four-five years.

"But we do not know for sure if the virus collected these mutations in humans or in animals. We do not have genomes of the virus sequenced at intermediate time periods between 2017 and 2022, and so cannot say for sure if the sustained transmission has been in humans," he says.

Higher rate

But the large collection of mutations does clearly suggest that the earlier notion of a mutation rate of two-three per year for monkeypox virus is a gross underestimation. The monkeypox virus indeed mutates at a higher rate than what was earlier assumed.

The 47 mutations seen in the genome sequence does indicate that the virus could have collected these mutations in a short period of time.

"This change in mutation pattern likely marks the jump from the original host to humans or an intermediate host where a host enzyme (maybe APOBEC3) might mutate the genome. The rate of change increased 10-20 fold and is now around one change per month," Dr. Richard Neher from the University of Basel tweeted. "We don't know what these mutations do. The great majority of them are likely inconsequential or deleterious to the virus and we have no evidence of viral adaptation. But they will help us tell apart different clusters of the outbreak of monkeypox and understand how the virus spreads."

Sustained transmission of the virus in the last four-five years

There are 47 new mutations seen in the monkeypox virus compared with the 2017-2019 sequences

Lack of proof: There is no evidence that monkeypox virus collected all the 47 mutations in humans. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

- As of June 1, over 550 lab-confirmed monkeypox cases have been reported from 30 countries
- The notion that the virus may have been imported from Nigeria is "highly speculative"
- The 47 mutations seen in the genome sequence does indicate that the virus has collected these mutations in a short period of time
- The mutation rate of two per year for monkeypox virus comes from limited data from other poxviruses that have been studied
- Many of the mutations now seen are due to the action of a particular enzyme that is present in the host (animals and humans) to prevent the virus from multiplying
- The large collection of mutations clearly suggests that monkeypox virus mutates at a higher rate than what was assumed
- There has been sustained transmission, but cannot be certain if the sustained transmission has been in humans
- The significance of these mutations is not known yet. But most of the mutations are likely to be inconsequential

Inhaled vaccine to be more effective

Researchers in Toronto are conducting human trials of the vaccine

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

A multidisciplinary team from the McMaster University, Toronto is working to make inhaled vaccines a reality.

Fiona Smaill, Professor of Pathology and Molecular Medicine, McMaster University, and a part of the multidisciplinary team, said that they are testing a next-generation COVID-19 vaccine that the earlier research in animals suggests will last longer, will be more effective and stand up well to future variants of the virus.

"Before COVID-19 emerged, our team of researchers at McMaster University were working to develop a new inhaled form of vaccine delivery that could finally take on one of the most challenging respiratory infections –tuberculosis– still a scourge in low-and middle-income countries and in remote areas across the globe. In Canada, it disproportionately affects people living in Inuit Nunangat and First Nations living on reserve," she said.

Human trial: The phase one clinical study is evaluating the safety. • GETTY IMAGES

The COVID-19 pandemic, being truly global, created a huge demand for vaccines, such as the now-familiar ones from Pfizer, Moderna and AstraZeneca.

These vaccines have got us through the immediate crisis, as the COVID-19 virus was spreading rapidly, and have served us well, preventing serious illness and death in countries where vaccines were available.

"These vaccines represent great strides, but they are not as effective in all populations, nor are they as robust against new variants as they are against the original strain of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19," she said.

She added that after decades of work, the progress made was steady, but slow.

She added that her team's research suggests that the next-generation COVID-19 vaccine that they are currently testing will be more effective for longer use, and will protect against new variants.

"We are conducting human trials of our new COVID-19 vaccine. The phase one clinical study is evaluating safety of the vaccine, as well as testing for evidence of immune responses in blood and the lungs. Our new multivalent vaccine, manufactured for our clinical trial in the Robert E. Fitzhenry Vector Laboratory, targets multiple viral proteins, both the spike protein on the surface and also the proteins inside the virus," she said.

China to not give advanced safety to emperor penguins

Beijing to consider implications of upgraded protection

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

China has blocked efforts to step up protection of emperor penguins that are increasingly threatened by the effects global warming is having on their natural habitat in Antarctica, officials said on Friday.

Dozens of countries had backed giving the world's largest penguins special protection status at a 10-day meeting in Berlin of parties to the Antarctic Treaty. The treaty was forged in 1959 to ensure that the continent remains the preserve of science, and free of arms.

"An overwhelming majority of parties held the opinion that there is sufficient scientific evidence for the species to be put under the special protection," the German government, which hosted the May 22-June 2 meeting, said in a statement.

While a formal decision was "blocked by one party," it said that most countries attending the meeting planned nevertheless to put in place national measures to protect emperor penguins.

Chinese delegates attending the meeting, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said Beijing had made clear that it wanted more time to consider the implications of upgrading the protection status of the penguins.

Russia, which like Ukraine is active in Antarctica, was represented at the meeting by an official from its embassy in Berlin, with other delegates participating remotely by video link.

Despite differences with Beijing over the penguins and the deep diplomatic discord between Moscow and the West over Ukraine, the meeting was able to adopt by consensus a package of conservation measures for Antarctica.

These included moves to designate four new protected areas in the future and limit tourism to the frozen continent.

India's role in global health diplomacy is at stake

Staying silent in the negotiations ahead of the WTO's upcoming ministerial on June 12-15 is not an option

LEENA MENGHANEY

Without India, a discussion on monopolies and how they impact the availability, supply, and access of medicines, vaccines, and other essential medical products rarely happens. The country – a key manufacturer and actor in global supply chains – plays a pivotal role in international negotiations at the World Health Assembly and the World Trade Organization.

'Public interest' standard

India did this early in the pandemic. Our government boldly endorsed a "public interest" standard – by submitting to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) with South Africa a waiver of monopolies based on a combination of patents, control over clinical trial data, and trade secrets on vaccines, therapeutics, and diagnostics to open up manufacturing of much-needed tests, treatments, and preventive tools in the COVID-19 pandemic across the world.

This proposal is known as the 'Waiver'. It called for specific provisions of the agreement on trade-related aspects of intellectual property rights (TRIPS) to be waived temporarily by WTO members.

Both India and South Africa have a colonial history of inheriting an intellectual property system that did not serve their people at different points in time. At the turn of the century, South African AIDS activists, with millions losing their lives to the virus, challenged the excessive control and profiteering by pharma corporations who would not allow the importation of low-cost generic HIV medicines into Africa.

Indian policymakers had already, in the 1980s, articulated a vision for the future still applicable in the pandemic. India's industrial policy of investing public money and developing technology in pharmaceuticals and reforming the colonial law at the time, making medical discoveries free of patents, made it a powerhouse in vaccine and drug manufacturing. In this pandemic, both countries, now active members of the World Trade Organisation, had much to gain by suggesting reform of the IP system by stripping off its last century's "exclusivity" dogma.

Limited scope: The limited plan unveiled last month by the WTO Director-General is restricted only to vaccines, excluding therapeutics and other medical products. • REUTERS

The underlying problem is that rich countries spend vast sums of money researching new products to address human suffering and extend life. Yet, the needs and lives of millions of people in developing countries are secondary and dependent on imports.

Thicket of monopolies

Access to technology by low-and middle-income countries is viewed as a constant threat, and their research contributions are either ignored or they receive little public attention. At the same time, the IP system creates a thicket of monopolies that block local production and generic competition against their pharmaceutical corporations.

India and other co-sponsors pushed a 'commons approach' so that a broader number of countries – rather than the current handful – could invest in manufacturing and developing technology to make vaccines, affordable drugs, diagnostics, and devices without facing IP barriers.

The proposal has seen unprecedented public attention, but the pushback from the pharmaceutical corporations and a handful of countries has been strong. Negotiations have dragged on for nearly two years. In the meantime, the U.S. pharma corporation Pfizer's revenue has touched $100 billion, profiteering from the sale of the COVID-19 vaccines and antiviral drugs, mainly in rich countries.

The limited plan unveiled last month by the WTO Director-General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala has been under criticism; some come from leading experts such as the Nobel Prize-winning economist Joseph Stiglitz and the head of the UN's agency to fight AIDS. The limited plan is restricted only to vaccines, excluding therapeutics and other medical products, and also lacks teeth in many ways.

India stands at crossroads at this point. If adopted, the proposal in its current form could set a negative precedent for efforts to increase access to medicines, vaccines, and diagnostic tests now and in the future. India's role in global health diplomacy at this point is crucial. It is part of the G-77, BRICS, and many such platforms, where it plays a leadership role on issues related to IP and access to medical products. The proposal and the WTO are fast losing credibility. Remaining silent in the negotiations ahead of the WTO's upcoming ministerial on June 12-15 this year is not an option.

Text-based negotiations

Many experts and civil society believe no deal would be better than the proposal. Countries like India should hike up the pressure in the text-based negotiations among member states and the WTO secretariat to propose the text and aim to restore the original proposal that waived intellectual property barriers (not just patents) on all medical products for COVID-19. As one of the original sponsors of the TRIPS Waiver, it cannot walk away from this responsibility.

(Leena Menghaney is a lawyer with expertise in international relations, intellectual property, and pharmaceuticals. She works with the international humanitarian organisation Medecins Sans Frontieres – Access Campaign. All views expressed are personal.)

Question Corner

Atmospheric model

Why do Uranus and Neptune have different colours?

Neptune and Uranus have much in common – they have similar masses, sizes, and atmospheric compositions – yet their appearances are notably different. At visible wavelengths, Neptune has a distinctly bluer colour whereas Uranus is a pale shade of cyan. Astronomers now have an explanation for why the two planets are of different colours.

Using observations from the Gemini North telescope, the NASA Infrared Telescope Facility, and the Hubble Space Telescope, researchers have developed a single atmospheric model that matches observations of both planets. New research suggests that a layer of concentrated haze that exists on both planets is thicker on Uranus than a similar layer on Neptune and 'whitens' Uranus's appearance more than Neptune's. The model reveals that excess haze on Uranus builds up in the planet's stagnant, sluggish atmosphere and makes it appear a lighter tone than Neptune.

This conclusion (*Journal of Geophysical Research: Planets*) comes from a model that an international team led by Patrick Irwin, Professor of Planetary Physics at Oxford University, developed to describe aerosol layers in the atmospheres of Neptune and Uranus. As per a press release from the Association of Universities for Research in Astronomy, this new model, consisting of multiple atmospheric layers, matches observations from both planets across a wide range of wavelengths. The new model also includes haze particles within deeper layers that had previously been thought to contain only clouds of methane and hydrogen sulphide ices.

Readers may send their questions / answers to questioncorner@thehindu.co.in

In protest: Progressive organisations take out a march against revision of textbooks on May 30. • PRAKASH HASSAN

Textbook controversy

Why are there protests over the school syllabus in Karnataka?

JAYANTH R.

The story so far: The Karnataka textbook revision committee, headed by Rohith Chakrathirtha, has included a speech by Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) founder K.B. Hedgewar in the Class 10 Kannada (first language State syllabus) textbook. Works by several authors associated with the progressive stream in Kannada literature have been left out. As a mark of protest, many writers have written to the BJP government withdrawing permission to use their works in textbooks. In another development, seers associated with the Veerashiva-Lingayat and Vokkaliga castes, two powerful communities of Karnataka, have raised objections to some comments of Mr. Chakrathirtha.

What is the genesis of the controversy?

■ When COVID-19 struck two years ago, to manage the burden of a heavy syllabus in a truncated academic year, the government reduced 30% of the syllabus for all classes. In the process, lessons on Tipu Sultan, Sangolli Rayanna, Rani Chennamma and a few other historical figures were excluded for that year from the social science syllabus of Class 6 to Class 8.

Around the same time, the Karnataka Brahmin Mahasabha submitted a memorandum to the Primary and Secondary Education Minister B.C. Nagesh and Commissioner of the Department of Public Instruction demanding revision of some lessons in the Class 6 and Class 8 social science textbooks which they said "hurt the sentiments of the Brahmin community." On the basis of this memorandum, the government formed a 16-member textbook revision committee and appointed Mr. Chakrathirtha as the chairperson in September 2021. Initially, the government had announced that the committee would only revise Class 6 and Class 8 social science textbooks which "hurt community sentiments." However, eventually, the committee was given the responsibility of all the textbooks from Classes I to 10. The committee took around six months and submitted its report to the government in March, 2022.

What are the major changes in the textbooks?

■ While Hegdewar's speech was added, the committee dropped texts of writers P. Lankesh, Sara Aboobacker, Aravind Malagatti, Neela, B.T. Lalita Naik, A.N. Murthy Rao among others, known for their progressive views. The committee included works of writers including Bannanje Govindacharya, Shatavadhani R. Ganesh, S.L. Bhyrappa and others. Inclusion of a chapter by Chakravarthi Sulibele, a strong defender of the BJP and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, was among the highlights. A chapter on Bhagat Singh authored by Marxist scholar G. Ramakrishna, initially dropped, was later restored.

> The BJP Government, which had earlier said there was no question of rolling back changes in the syllabus, is showing signs of buckling under pressure to revise some portions

There was outrage over dropping portions that spoke of social reformer Narayana Guru, Periyar and others, while the government in its defence said they were not dropped but only juggled between texts to make them more contextual. The manner in which details about Basaveshwara as well as Dr. B.R. Ambedkar were edited in Class 9 textbooks has also drawn criticism.

What has been the response to the revisions?

■ Writers identified with progressive streams, Dalit organisations, student unions and others across the State protested against the "saffronisation" and "Brahminisation" of textbooks. Over 10 writers, including Devanooru Mahadeva and Prof. Ramakrishna, have told the government that they do not wish their writings included in the textbooks revised by the committee. Opposition Congress and Janata Dal (Secular) and other parties have also opposed the changes.

Vokkaliga community organisations, leaders and mutt seers like Dr. Nirmalanandanatha Swamiji have demanded action against Mr. Chakrathirtha on the grounds that he has in the past defamed Jnanpith awardee and literary icon Kuvempu, who belonged to the community, by sharing a distorted version of the "nada geethe" (State anthem) penned by Kuvempu. Various Veerashiva-Lingayat seers have taken exception to the content on Basaveshwara, the 12th century philosopher-poet-social reformer and a proponent of Lingayat philosophy, which has now been partially addressed by a promise to revise it. Dalit organisations are unhappy with the portrayal of B.R. Ambedkar, on which the government has made no promises. Some old tweets and social media posts of Mr. Chakrathirtha have been questioned over their alleged anti-women and casteist stances. Critics also questioned his qualification to head the committee, which the government vociferously defended.

What is the government saying?

■ The BJP government in Karnataka, which had earlier stuck to its stand that there was no question of rolling back the changes, late on Friday showed signs of buckling under pressure from religious heads. Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai's statement that the government had an "open mind" followed a prolonged discussion with Minister B.C. Nagesh. While Mr.Bommai announced that the material related to Basaveshwara would be "suitably altered in order not to hurt sentiments", there is no sign of anything else being changed in the textbooks so far. The government in its statement emphasised that the revision committee has been disbanded – the purpose for which it was set up has been met and its term has ended.

Why are FPIs dumping Indian stocks?

What has led to the sell-off by foreign portfolio investors? Does it affect ongoing economic recovery?

K. BHARAT KUMAR

The story so far: Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) have been on a selling spree in India. May figures of about ₹44,000 crore formed the highest monthly quantum of sell-off since March 2020 when India announced a nationwide lockdown. Last month was also the eighth on the trot that FPIs had sold net of their assets – i.e., sold more than they had purchased.

Their selling actions have triggered a significant decline in benchmark indices resulting in a drop in market capitalisation of companies.

Sell-off spree: Attractive returns and economic growth draw investors including FPIs into a market. • GETTY IMAGES

What are FPIs?

■ Foreign portfolio investors are those that invest funds in markets outside of their home turf. Their investments typically include equities, bonds and mutual funds. They are generally not active shareholders and do not exert any control over the companies whose shares they hold. The passive nature of their investment also allows them to enter or exit a stock at will and with ease.

What factors spur FPI moves?

■ Promise of attractive returns on the back of economic growth draws investors including FPIs into a country's markets. For example, as per data from the National Securities Depositories Ltd. (NDSL), FPIs brought in about ₹3,682 crore in 2002. This grew to ₹1.79 lakh crore crore in 2010. This correlates with the concurrent expansion of economic output in that period, despite the 2008 global financial crisis which saw FPI sell-offs in that time-frame in the country. The year 2017 saw FPI inflows exceed ₹2 lakh crore.

Likewise, FPIs withdrew ₹1.18 lakh crore in March 2020 alone – the month when India announced a nationwide lockdown, triggering concerns around economic growth. In tandem, benchmark stock index Sensex fell from 42,270 in February 2020 to 25,630 in March 2020.

FPIs also show keenness to invest in bonds when there is a favourable differential between the real interest rates on offer in the country they aim to invest in, and other markets, but more specifically, compared with the largest economy in the world, the U.S.

Why have FPIs been selling India holdings?

■ FPIs sold assets worth ₹44,000 crore in May 2022. This is the second highest sell-off in a month since 1993, after March 2020. Post-pandemic, recovery in the Indian economy has been uneven. The second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2021 devastated lives and livelihoods. The economy stuttered again when a third, albeit less severe, wave saw the spread of the Omicron variant early this year. Add to this the return of pent-up demand in economies worldwide as the pandemic subsided. The pace of recovery caught suppliers off guard, contributing to supply-side shortages.

Even as industry was grappling with this challenge, Russia launched an attack on Ukraine. Sunflower oil and wheat supplies, for example from these two nations were impacted, leading to a rise in global prices for these crops. As supplies in general tightened across the globe, commodity prices too rose and overall inflation accelerated. India witnessed a quickening pace in price rise that stayed above the Reserve Bank's upper comfort level of 6% for four months running, touching 7.8% in April. Industrial production too has seen a bumpy ride without giving confidence of a full and final recovery from the pandemic. Consumption expenditure too has remained weak in the subcontinent.

With each of these factors contributing to a decline in confidence of robust economic performance, foreign portfolio investors have been reducing market investments over these past months. Add to the mix the U.S. Federal Reserve raising the benchmark interest rate starting March this year. The key rate went up from 0-0.25% in March to 0.75-1% in May and is expected to rise by 50 basis points at each of the next two Fed meetings. When the differential between the interest rates in the U.S. and other markets narrows, and if such an occurrence is accompanied by the strengthening of the dollar, then the ability of investors to realise healthy returns is impacted. For returns are measured not only by the value appreciation of assets but also by exchange rate changes. If the dollar strengthens against the rupee, then an investor is able to realise fewer dollars for a given quantum of rupee assets liquidated. Further, if inflation quickens in the overseas market where the investor has placed funds, then the real returns are even further impacted. They then tend to exit assets seen as 'risky' such as in emerging markets like India, Brazil or South Africa.

What impact does an FPI sell-off have?

■ When FPIs sell their holdings and repatriate funds back to their home markets, the local currency takes a beating. After all, they sell rupees in exchange for their home market currency. As supply of the rupee in the market rises, its value declines. In this instance, the rupee has recently been seeing all-time lows. About a year ago, it was trading in the region of 73 to a U.S. dollar; it is now flirting with the 78 level. With a weaker rupee, we have to shell out more funds to import the same unit of goods. The most telling impact is on the cost of our crude oil imports that contribute to 85% of our oil needs.

Are fears of stagflation impacting markets?

Will inflationary shocks and supply side constraints due to the Ukraine war lead to more challenges?

SURESH SESHADRI

The story so far: Authorities worldwide, particularly central bankers, are feverishly trying to formulate the appropriate set of policies to ensure that inflation, currently running at multi-decade highs in some advanced economies including the U.S., is cooled without triggering a recession. Former Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke told *The New York Times* last month that he foresaw a period in the near future "where growth is low, unemployment is at least up a little bit and inflation is still high", adding, "So you could call that stagflation".

What exactly is stagflation?

■ Most economists typically focus on the three key macroeconomic gauges to assess the health of an economy. Economic output measured by gross domestic product, the level of unemployment and thirdly inflation or the pace at which the prices of goods and services are rising in the economy.

The challenge for policymakers, especially central banks, is to ensure optimum conditions whereby output grows at a healthy pace, helping businesses in the economy to create jobs at a steady pace and thus keeping unemployment low, and most crucially having all of this happen in an atmosphere when prices remain relatively stable.

However, in the real world, more often than not, high economic growth invariably spurs faster inflation which is why many central banks have a specific mandate of ensuring that the pace of price gains does not exceed a specified target level or range.

The most difficult and messy problem for policymakers is when inflation runs high even as economic output either stagnates or, worse, shrinks. The slowdown in economic activity, in turn, leads businesses to shed jobs and the resultant situation is termed as 'stagflation'.

How does it manifest?

■ One of the classic instances when most economies including the U.S. faced 'stagflation' was during the 'oil shock' of the early 1970s when an embargo led by the oil producers' cartel OPEC caused the price of crude to almost quadruple in a period of just under six months.

"Countries like the U.S. that imported a lot of oil experienced both high inflation and recession," Veronika Dolar, an Assistant Professor of Economics at SUNY Old Westbury in the U.S., wrote in an article published by the online journal *The Conversation* in March. "The Consumer Price Index exceeded 10% for the first time since the 1940s, unemployment jumped from 4.6% in 1973 to 9% in 1975, and the GDP plunged," she observed.

What has sparked the latest concerns about stagflation?

■ While the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic and the curbs imposed to contain the spread of the virus caused the first major recent economic slowdown worldwide, the subsequent fiscal and monetary measures taken to address the downturn, including substantial increases in liquidity in most of the advanced economies, fuelled a sharp upsurge in inflation.

While the Fed and the Bank of England are among central banks that have started raising interest rates to cool soaring prices, the ongoing war in Ukraine following Russia's invasion of its southern neighbour and the consequent Western sanctions on Moscow have caused a fresh and as yet hard-to-quantify 'supply shock'.

With the prices of commodities ranging from oil and gas to foodgrains, edible oils and fertilizers all surging sharply in the wake of the conflict, authorities face an uphill battle to contain inflation that is now less a function of demand (and so can be controlled by regulating credit) and almost entirely caused by supply factors that are far harder to manage.

To add to the concerns, several business leaders including Tesla's Elon Musk and JP Morgan Chase & Co.'s Jamie Dimon are warning of an impending 'recession'.

What lies ahead?

■ Current Fed Chairman Jerome Powell summed it last month at the post-federal open market committee press conference when asked if a recession was inevitable to tame inflation. "Basically, we've been hit by historically large inflationary shocks since the pandemic. This isn't anything like regular business... it's been a series of inflationary shocks that are really different from anything people have seen in 40 years. So we have to look through that and look at the economy that's coming out the other side. And we need to somehow find price stability out of this. And it's obviously going to be very challenging."

What are the latest guidelines on monkeypox?

Why is India on alert? What are the likely origins, symptoms, modes of transmission and treatment?

JACOB KOSHY

The story so far: India's Health Ministry has issued guidelines on the management of the monkeypox disease. So far, no cases of the virus have been confirmed in India but reports of the virus' spread in non-endemic countries have led to guidelines being issued.

What do the guidelines say?

■ The 23-page document, available on the Health Ministry website, is an information sheet that lists out the global prevalence of the disease as of May 31, its epidemiology or disease characteristics including the kind of virus that causes the disease, its likely origins, incubation period, how long before symptoms manifest and so forth.

It also highlights how long it takes to subside, modes of transmission, symptoms, the probable modes of exposure, the test to confirm the presence of the virus, the government's surveillance strategy in place to identify cases and clusters of infection.

What are the most important recommendations?

■ The guidelines recommend that contacts be monitored every day for the onset of signs/symptoms for a period of 21 days (as per case definition) from the last contact with a patient or their contaminated materials during the infectious period. Suspected cases of monkeypox include a person of any age with a history of travel to affected countries within the last 21 days and presenting an unexplained acute rash and one or more of symptoms, including swollen lymph nodes, fever, head/body ache and profound weakness.

Other symptoms include pain in the eye or blurring of vision, shortness of breath, chest pain, difficulty in breathing, altered consciousness, seizure, decrease in urine output, poor oral intake and lethargy.

A case of monkeypox is confirmed in a laboratory by detection of unique sequences of viral DNA either by polymerase chain reaction (PCR) and/or sequencing, much like a test for COVID-19. However, there are no commercial tests for monkeypox yet and all clinical specimens are to be transported to the apex laboratory of the ICMR-NIV (Pune) routed through the Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) network of the respective district/State.

There is no treatment protocol or medicines specific to monkeypox and a patient has to be managed on the basis of the symptoms they present. For instance, dehydration ought to be treated with oral fluids; fever with sponging and paracetamol, nausea and vomiting with antiemetics.

How prevalent is monkeypox globally?

■ The World Health Organization has said that cases of monkeypox have been reported from 12 member states that are not endemic for monkeypox virus. Reported cases thus far do not have established travel links to endemic areas. Based on currently available information, cases were mainly, but not confined to, men who have sex with men (MSM) seeking care in primary care and sexual health clinics.

To date, all cases whose samples were confirmed by PCR testing have been identified as being infected with the West African clade of the virus. The genome sequence from a swab sample from a confirmed case in Portugal, indicated a close match of the monkeypox virus causing the current outbreak, to exported cases from Nigeria to the U.K., Israel and Singapore in 2018 and 2019.

Countries where the virus was endemic are, according to the WHO, Benin, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon, Ghana (identified in animals only), Ivory Coast, Liberia, Nigeria, the Republic of the Congo, Sierra Leone, and South Sudan.

Are there vaccines?

■ Historically, vaccination against smallpox had been shown to be protective against monkeypox. While one vaccine (MVA-BN) and one specific treatment (tecovirimat) were approved for monkeypox, in 2019 and 2022 respectively, they aren't widely available. A vaccination with small pox is said to be protective against monkeypox but this vaccine would be in individuals over 40-50 years of age, who've been inoculated with the small pox vaccine and here too it's unclear how long lasting the protection is.

OPEC PLUS

The cartel and its allies that keep oil on the boil

As energy prices rise amid crippling sanctions against Russia, OPEC and its partners are under pressure to stabilise the market

ILLUSTRATION: R. RAJESH

PRASHANTH PERUMAL

OPEC Plus countries, an alliance between the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and other major oil producers, are in the limelight as global oil prices soared above $120 a barrel last week as supplies failed to keep up with rising demand. The price of oil is expected to remain elevated for some time to come after the European Union decided last week to cut down oil imports from Russia by 90% by the end of this year and block European insurers from selling cover to tankers carrying Russian oil. The move is expected to worsen the present oil supply crunch as non-Russian oil producers may not be able to compensate for the lost Russian supplies and meet the EU's demand for oil within a short span of time.

Under pressure from major oil importers, OPEC Plus last week agreed to raise production by 6,48,000 barrels a day in July and August, a jump of about 50% over the monthly increase set last year under a deal. OPEC Plus countries, which control more than 50% of the world's crude supplies, had joined hands to cut down oil production by 10 million barrels a day in 2020. The decision was taken amid falling oil prices as demand for oil fell drastically due to COVID-19 lockdowns across the world. It is feared that as the global economy gets back on its feet, the failure of OPEC Plus countries to increase output quickly enough to pre-pandemic levels could cause oil prices to stay high.

In Focus

- In September 1960, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela convened in Baghdad to discuss ways to pump up prices, which led to the formation of OPEC
- OPEC members and a group of non-OPEC oil producers, including Russia, started cooperating since 2016 to influence energy prices, which came to be called OPEC Plus
- There are 23 members in the grouping — the 13 member countries, including Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Iran and Iraq, and 10 non-OPEC countries

OPEC Plus refers to a group of 23 oil-producing countries that includes 13 members of OPEC (Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Algeria, Angola, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Libya, Nigeria, the Republic of the Congo, and Venezuela) and 10 other oil-producing countries (Russia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Brunei, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Mexico, Oman, South Sudan and Sudan). Saudi Arabia is the largest oil producer among OPEC members. Russia, which produces more oil than even Saudi Arabia, plays a crucial role, along with OPEC, in influencing global crude oil prices.

OPEC Plus countries last week agreed to raise production by 6,48,000 barrels a day in July and August, a jump of about 50% over the monthly increase set last year under a deal

Beginning of cooperation

It should be noted that OPEC Plus was created in 2016 when OPEC countries decided to ally with other oil-producing countries outside the group to cut down the global output of oil. Under the pact, called the Declaration of Cooperation (DoC), the countries have worked together to influence global energy prices. To institutionalise the cooperation further, OPEC countries and their allies, in a ministerial meeting held on July 2, 2019, accepted a 'Charter of Cooperation'. "The Charter provides a platform to facilitate dialogue and exchange views regarding conditions and developments in the global oil and energy markets. The goal is to contribute to a secure energy supply and lasting stability for the benefit of producers, consumers, investors and the global economy," according to the OPEC website.

The new grouping was seen as a response by oil-producing countries to protect their interests amid the rise of the U.S. shale industry. U.S. shale oil producers had caused a steep drop in the price of oil by massively increasing U.S. energy supplies and put the finances of OPEC governments under a lot of strain. OPEC itself was formed in 1960 as a cartel to influence the global price of crude oil. The global energy market was largely dominated by western multinational companies, called the 'Seven Sisters'– Anglo-Iranian Oil Company (now BP), Royal Dutch Shell (now Shell), Standard Oil Company of California (later Chevron), Gulf Oil (now merged into Chevron), Texaco (now merged into Chevron), Standard Oil Company of New Jersey-Esso (now part of ExxonMobil) and Standard Oil Company of New York-Socony (now part of ExxonMobil).

In September 1960, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela convened in Baghdad to discuss ways to pump up prices, which led to the formation of the cartel. "OPEC developed its collective vision, set up its objectives and established its Secretariat, first in Geneva and then, in 1965, in Vienna. It adopted a 'Declaratory Statement of Petroleum Policy in Member Countries' in 1968, which emphasised the inalienable right of all countries to exercise permanent sovereignty over their natural resources in the interest of their national development," according to the OPEC site. The "oil shock" of 1973, which led to a doubling of the price of oil within a couple of years and contributed to stagflation in the U.S. which was marked by rapidly rising prices and faltering economic growth, was the result of an OPEC embargo, which also showed the cartel's economic might.

Members of the cartel meet every month to decide the amount of oil they pump into the global market. According to current estimates, 79.4% of the world's proven oil reserves are located in OPEC countries, mostly in West Asia. OPEC members produced about 37.1% of the world's total crude oil in 2020.

Many economists believe that OPEC and its allies have been responsible for keeping oil prices high by artificially limiting supply. Cartels try to influence the price of goods or services by limiting their supply in the market. While this is good for the members of the cartel, it is bad news for consumers who will have less of the goods or services to consume. This, economists believe, has adversely affected the world economy. In the absence of the cartel, there would be no collusion between oil producers to limit supply and hence the total output of oil in the world would be higher. This means that there would be more oil available to fuel various economic activities, which would in turn mean that more goods and services are produced in the global economy and people enjoy higher standards of living.

Market power

Countries that depend on oil imports to meet their energy needs have been trying to find ways to tackle OPEC's market power. Western countries like the U.S. and the U.K. have been exerting political pressure on OPEC countries to increase their output in order to prevent the global economy from slipping into a recession. The U.S. has also tried to boost its own domestic energy production so that it won't have to rely on OPEC to meet its energy needs. In fact, the American shale revolution, which was driven by private oil producers that were free to exploit resources beneath the ground, managed to cut down America's dependence on oil from West Asia and made the country a net exporter of oil.

India, however, has remained dependent on the import of oil to meet its energy needs. India's domestic crude oil production in FY22 was at its lowest in almost three decades even as domestic oil consumption has increased significantly over the years. Structural reforms in the energy sector could help countries including India to boost domestic production and cut down their reliance on OPEC. Meanwhile, the sanctions imposed by the West on Russia have offered India an opportunity to purchase oil at highly discounted rates from Russia. Russia has been on a search for fresh buyers for its oil ever since the West imposed stringent sanctions on it for invading Ukraine.

Some economists have argued that, if it weren't for OPEC, the global oil market would resemble the U.S. shale market that is characterised by many small producers competing against each other. In such a competitive market, no producer would have the market power to influence prices. Further, the lack of entry barriers would ensure that any attempt at forming a cartel would be busted eventually as abnormally high returns enjoyed by the cartel would attract competitors who want a share of the pie. It should be noted that while private cartels that artificially suppress output are unanimously condemned by everyone, OPEC, which is a massive cartel formed by governments, usually escapes such criticism.

The future of OPEC is likely to depend on the fate of oil as a source of energy in the global economy. Some energy analysts believe that oil will remain a major source of energy in this century and that OPEC will continue to wield significant economic power. Others, however, believe that OPEC's influence will wane as they foresee that the world will move away from its current dependence on fossil fuels.

Whatever the long-term outcome would be, in the near to medium-term the cartel would continue to remain powerful especially as energy prices are rocketing following the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

UMA THOMAS

Out of the shadows

Wife of a late Congress leader secured a huge victory in Kerala byelection

G. KRISHNAKUMAR

ILLUSTRATION: SATHEESH VELLINEZHI

Uma Thomas was the unanimous choice of the faction-ridden Congress in Kerala when the Election Commission of India announced on May 2 that the byelection in Thrikkakara Assembly constituency in Ernakulam would be held on May 31. Within 24 hours of the declaration of the byelection, the Congress announced its candidate.

The constituency, a traditional Congress stronghold, was twice represented by P.T. Thomas, her husband and senior Congress leader. The byelection was necessitated following his death on December 22, 2021. As the votes were counted on June 3, Ms. Thomas emerged as a giant killer with a record victory margin of 25,016 votes against the Left candidate, Jo Joseph. The Left Democratic Front, which has 99 members in the 140-member Assembly, had run a high-octane campaign seeking to "hit century". But Ms. Thomas had the last laugh.

The 56-year-old is no political novice, though she always preferred to remain under the shadow of her husband, a four-time MLA and one-time MP, who represented the Idukki Lok Sabha constituency from 2009 to 2014.

A zoology graduate from the Maharaja's College, Ernakulam, she began her political innings as an active member of the Congress-affiliated Kerala Students' Union (KSU). She met Thomas, who was then the State president of the KSU, while she was rendering a song at an election meeting held on the campus. The friendship grew and led to marriage on July 9, 1987 despite opposition from her family against the inter-religious union.

A mother of two sons, she withdrew from active politics after her marriage but continued to use her organisational skills gained from her campus life in the various election campaigns of her husband. She renewed her long-term contacts in Ernakulam after the Congress decided to field Thomas at Thrikkakara in the 2016 Assembly election.

It was a battle of prestige for him after the party had denied him ticket to contest the 2014 Lok Sabha election from Idukki in view of the opposition from the Catholic Church over his demand for implementing the report of the Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel. He won the seat even when a Left wave drowned the Congress-led front in Kerala in the 2021 Assembly election.

Thomas's untimely death from cancer last December prompted the Congress to hand over the seat to Ms. Thomas, despite more than half-a-dozen aspirants eyeing it. Though she stayed away from all discussions over her candidature initially, it was almost certain that she would be the party's natural choice to keep the memories of the departed leader alive.

Political acumen

Much to the surprise of many, Ms. Thomas displayed her political acumen and composure right from the start of the campaign. As workers celebrated the announcement of her candidature, media persons were quick to ask her about the possibility of the Left scoring a century in the Assembly. "What about restraining it at 99," she retorted. As the Congress and the Communist Party of India (Marxist) exchanged words over allegations that the Left candidate was backed by the Church, she stayed out of the controversy by saying that Church and politics need not be mixed. However, she was quick to respond whenever the Opposition camp trained guns on her husband.

"How can a Chief Minister make such an inconsiderate statement," Ms. Thomas asked after Pinarayi Vijayan said at an election convention that the byelection was an opportunity and blessing to correct the mistake of the election verdict in 2021 [in favour of Thomas].

She broke down at the last lap of the campaign after her practice of keeping aside food in memory of her husband was mocked on social media. When the results were out, however, the Congress saw its highest-ever margin in the history of Thrikkakara constituency. And Ms. Thomas has finally stepped out of the shadows of her husband.

Her political makeover came full circle when she stated that the people of Thrikkakara had defeated Pinarayi Vijayan and his government, in her first reaction after the victory. Ms. Thomas, who was working as an Assistant Finance Manager in a private hospital in Kochi, will join the Opposition benches as the only woman representative of the Congress in the current Assembly.

JAVIER OLIVAN

To head Meta's operations

New COO faces pressure to keep Facebook's daily active users from falling

SRIRAM SRINIVASAN

ILLUSTRATION: J.A. PREMKUMAR

Spaniard Javier Olivan, who has been named to replace Sheryl Sandberg as the Chief Operating Officer of Facebook's parent company Meta, summed up the change in a post, saying, "While I'll have the same title, this will be a different role." This isn't just about the fact that Ms. Sandberg and Mr. Olivan, both Facebook veterans, have been involved with different aspects of the company's operations but also that they are two different personalities. After founder Mark Zuckerberg, Ms. Sandberg has been the most visible face of the social networking company. In his post, Mr. Zuckerberg called her "a superstar who defined the COO role in her own unique way".

Her successor doesn't anticipate his role to have "the same public-facing aspect". As the COO, the low-profile Mr. Olivan will continue to work with growth, integrity, infrastructure, and other teams. Mr. Olivan, 44, followed up on an engineering degree with an MBA from Stanford, and worked at Siemens Mobile as product manager before joining Facebook. He has been the behind-the-scenes man working on scaling products and projects ever since.

In an interview with *Venture Beat* 12 years ago, Mr. Olivan, then just three years into his job at Facebook (when MySpace was still the bigger platform), spoke about how the social media platform hopes to touch a billion users, doubling from its count at that time. As head of international growth, Mr. Olivan's mandate then was to tap emerging markets such as India, Indonesia, and Russia, among others. In other words, the target then was a market heavy on feature phones and low on bandwidth.

Growth challenge

In 2010, Facebook wasn't the social media leader that it is today – it was trailing Mixi and Twitter in Japan, yet to catch up with Orkut in India and Brazil, and was far behind Vkontakte in Russia. Cut to now: as per the 2022 first quarter results of Meta, 3.64 billion users are using at least one of its products (Facebook, Messenger, WhatsApp, Instagram) every month.

By the time Facebook crossed the one-billion mark, it was faced with another growth challenge. This time, the subject was the Messenger app, which evolved as a separate product in 2011 especially after the company acquired a service called Beluga. When the going got slow, it was Mr. Olivan who was tapped to speed it up. He, as detailed by a report in *Wired.com*, figured out that those using the standalone app messaged more than those who used Facebook's messaging feature.

Mr. Olivan was also a key part of the organisation's push for internet.org, a free service promoted by Facebook and a few partners so as to give a taste of the internet to those who can't afford it. It was criticised as Facebook became the internet gatekeeper for those who signed up for it. In a 2014 *Time* magazine report, Mr. Olivan spoke about how Facebook worked with networking companies such as Ericsson to recreate the conditions in regions such as rural India. "Then we brought in some phones, like very low-end Android, and we invited guys from the Valley here – the eBay guys, the Apple guys. It's like, Hey, come and test your applications in these conditions! Nothing worked," he was quoted as saying.

He has also been acknowledged as the one who pushed Mr. Zuckerberg to consider key acquisitions, including that of WhatsApp. It has been reported that, at one point, the company was in a way alarmed by WhatsApp's growing popularity, and that there was a feeling that it could eventually eclipse Facebook as a social networking option. Also reported was the fact that some of the company's leaders felt it would get worse if one of Facebook's rivals manages to buy WhatsApp. Mr. Zuckerberg did eventually close that deal at a whopping $19 billion.

Mr. Olivan's appointment comes at a time when the company faces pressure to keep its daily active users from falling. New challenges such as privacy-related tweaks to Apple's operating system seem to be impacting Meta. New platforms also pose challenges. But then there's also a long-term opportunity that it wants to build and scale. It goes by the name metaverse. As Mr. Zuckerberg said in a recent analyst call, referring to metaverse, "I think it's important to build the foundation for the next era of social technology as well".

'Tracking consumption amid volatility'

Consumer awareness high, with rising disposable incomes, greater urbanisation: Tata Consumer MD

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Terming the current macro environment as 'highly volatile' due to geopolitical tensions, supply-chain stress and inflation, Tata Consumer Products Ltd. (TCPL) MD and CEO Sunil D'Souza said the company was closely monitoring near-term trends to see how these economic headwinds affected consumer behaviour.

The company would be monitoring the global situation and inflation closely and put in 'practical and adequate' mitigating measures, Mr. D'Souza said in the latest annual report of the Tata group's FMCG arm.

Global supply-chain stress and higher energy prices had led to widespread inflation, and geopolitical strains had further exacerbated the situation. Mitigating the impact required strategic focus, agility and efficient execution, he said.

Room for more: TCPL has an opportunity to grow wallet share, shelf share and business share, says D'Souza. • AFP

"On a positive note, we are in the staples business and hence relatively better positioned to ride out these speed bumps. We also have a plethora of initiatives to drive growth and create efficiencies that can enable cost optimisations," Mr. D'Souza added.

These factors lend the company confidence to be able to deliver profitable growth notwithstanding the impact of the operating environment, he said.

Talking about changes in consumer behaviour, Mr. D'Souza said awareness levels were very high. There were some secular trends shaping the consumer landscape in India with rising disposable incomes, increasing urbanisation, and the democratisation of the Internet.

'Focus is on health'

These trends were leading to consumers seeking better quality and trusted brands with increased convenience. The pandemic had further accelerated digital adoption and had also brought health and wellness 'front and centre' for consumers, Mr. D'Souza pointed out.

"While these are some of the secular trends that will play out over the medium to long term, we are closely monitoring the near-term trends to see how inflation and other economic headwinds could affect consumer behaviour," he said.

TCPL would continue to expand portfolio and widen footprint to reach more consumers in India, he added.

"There is a significant opportunity for us to grow our wallet share, shelf share, and business share," he said. Currently, TCPL reaches more than 201 million households in India and distributes to over 2.6 million outlets.

"We will continue to execute on our strategic priorities and accelerate our growth momentum. Innovation, supply chain optimisation and digitalisation will be focus areas for the year ahead. We will continue to strengthen our sales and distribution across traditional as well as modern channels," Mr. D'Souza said.

TVS Motor eyes 'sustained' dominance in EV segment

Company aims to 'fully leverage' FAME II and PLI schemes

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

TVS Motor Company said it aimed to build a 'sustained dominant play' in the electric vehicle (EV) segment by leveraging various government initiatives such as the production-linked incentive scheme for the sector.

As per its FY22 annual report, the company has made plans to scale up its play in the electric segment.

"The PLI (Production-Linked Incentive) and FAME II (Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Hybrid and Electric Vehicles) initiatives of the government will be fully leveraged by the company [to] strategically build a sustained dominant play in this segment," it said.

The industry was slated to grow rapidly and the company had 'robust' plans for the segment, it added.

"In addition, with the strategic association with BMW, the company will be exploring the joint design and development of urban EV options for global markets," TVS Motor said.

The company has created a dedicated vertical for EV segment with more than 600 engineers and adopted 'Centres of Competency (COCs)' with an 'agile working approach'. TVS Motor sold more than 10,000 EVs in 2021-22. Overall, the company said it expected to outperform the industry in terms of sales growth on the back of new product introductions and economic activity regaining pace.

The domestic moped and economy motorcycle segments had lately underperformed and were likely to return to growth, with some buoyancy expected in rural, agriculture-led markets, it added. With considerable improvement in urban markets across India, the company said it was 'positive' about the performance of the scooter segment.

City Union Bank to focus on non-gold loans to spur growth

'Almost two-thirds of Q4 business was via non-gold loans'

N. ANAND
CHENNAI

City Union Bank (CUB) Ltd. said it was eyeing non-gold loans to spur future growth, even as it planned to roll out its own branded credit card over the next few weeks.

The private sector lender – which is looking beyond gold loans and the emergency credit limit guarantee scheme (ECLGS) for business – said it hoped to post low- to mid-double digit growth for FY23 compared with 11% seen in FY22.

"The proportion of non-gold loans in the overall credit growth in FY23 will be more than whatever we saw in FY22," said N. Kamakodi, MD and CEO. In the fourth quarter ended March, almost two-thirds of the business came from non-gold loans (₹1,935 crore).

N. Kamakodi

"As we are out of the COVID mindset... we will be growing and the opportunities on non-gold loans look higher compared to whatever we have seen in the past."

The bank also plans to introduce its own branded credit card before the announcement of the current quarter's results. CUB said it had received a proposal from 42 Card Solutions Pvt. Ltd., which manages cards for banks. "We feel it is time to launch our own credit card," he pointed out.

"The general consensus is that the ratio between debit cards and credit cards [for] a bank is [in the range of] 3:1. We currently have 26 lakh debit cards meaning that our customers should have around nine lakh credit cards," Mr. Kamakodi reasoned.

Vivriti Asset targets $5 bn in AUM by FY26: CEO

Firm to tap mid-market debt segment

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Vivriti Asset Management, a fixed-income Alternative Investment Fund (AIF) platform that provides debt financing to domestic mid-market companies, has set a target to grow its Assets Under Management (AUM) to $5 billion by FY26, its founder said.

'We are very optimistic about the growth potential the mid-market segment offers and aiming to build AUM of $5 billion by FY26," said founder and CEO Vineet Sukumar.

Few players

He said not many players were lending to this segment. As per the company, mid-market comprises companies with a revenue of more than ₹50 crore to ₹5,000 crore.

Mid-market comprises firms with a revenue of more than ₹50 cr. to ₹5,000 cr.

The demand is so high that the debt asset manager has come out with at least five alternative asset funds in the last one year.

"India's underpenetrated debt markets offer investors highly impactful and yet, commercially rewarding investment opportunities and a fund house like Vivriti channelises the much-needed finance efficiently," Mr. Sukumar said.

Firm tackling shortcomings: Eveready MD

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Eveready Industries India Ltd. is in the 'midst of a transformation' of its business and has taken steps to address areas of weaknesses in its operations and the product portfolio, while the battery and flashlight maker expects growth in the coming days, said its MD Suvamoy Saha.

In the annual report, he said, "While the operating results were somewhat disappointing, a good area to highlight is the balance sheet, which was under stress in the recent past.

"The company has now taken steps to address areas of weaknesses in its operations and the product portfolio," he added.

Cairn to power Mangala pipeline via solar panels

Firm aims to reduce carbon footprint

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Cairn Oil & Gas, a unit of mining giant Vedanta Ltd., will convert a pipeline that ships crude oil from its Rajasthan oilfields to Gujarat to solar power by 2025.

Cairn will convert the power source for the Mangala pipeline to solar from coal-fired grid power. It will install solar rooftop PVs in all the 36 Above Ground Installations (AGIs) along the pipeline by 2025, the firm said in a statement.

This pipeline is the world's longest, continuously heated and insulated pipeline that runs from oilfields of Rajasthan to refineries in Gujarat – traversing 705 km.

"In line with its commitment to reduce carbon footprint, Cairn is cutting dependence on more polluting sources of power and setting an important precedent in the industry," Cairn said. "The goal is to make our world's longest, continuously heated and insulated hydrocarbon-carrying pipeline a greener and more efficient resource."

Grand Prix Badminton League from July 1

Sindhu, Srikanth and Sai Praneeth to serve as non-playing team mentors

ASHWIN ACHAL
BENGALURU

P.V. Sindhu, K. Srikanth and Sai Praneeth are among the popular names who will serve as non-playing team mentors for the Grand Prix Badminton League (GPBL). The tournament will be held at Karnataka Badminton Association here from July 1 to 10.

There will be eight teams in the fray, it was announced at the launch ceremony here on Saturday. Each team will comprise 10 players each, with a minimum of five players from Karnataka, and a minimum of three women players. A total prize purse of ₹60 lakh is on offer.

Sindhu, mentor and co-owner of Bengaluru Tigers, said: "It's a great pleasure to be associated with the GPBL. It's always nice to support, encourage and inspire youngsters who are looking up to us. Badminton has to grow from grassroots levels like this," she said.

Star presence: Ashwini, Sai Praneeth, Jwala, Sindhu, Srikanth, Satwiksairaj, Prannoy and Chirag with the jerseys of their respective teams. • K. MURALI KUMAR

"After co-owning a team in the Premier Badminton League and having seen the potential the game has to offer, we thought about introducing a unique league," said Prashanth Reddy, League Commissioner and CEO of Bitsport.

Former National champion Arvind Bhat will serve as the League Director.

Around 400 shuttlers have registered for the league. A player auction will be held next week.

Teams and mentors: Malnad Falcons (Chirag Shetty); Bandipur Tuskers (Jwala Gutta, mentor and co-owner); Mysore Panthers (Satwiksairaj Rankireddy); Kodava Tigers (Ashwini Ponnappa); Mandya Bulls (Sai Praneeth); KGF Wolves (H.S. Prannoy); The Mangalore Sharks (K. Srikanth); Bengaluru Lions (P.V. Sindhu, mentor and co-owner).

It's Supernatural vs. Last Wish in feature event

BENGALURU: Supernatural and Last Wish may fight out the finish of the DT Racing & Breeding LLP Juvenile Million (1,400m), the chief event of the races to be held here on Sunday (June 5). False rails (width about 6m from 1,600m to the winning post) will be in position.

1 ENDORSEMENT PLATE (1,400m), rated 00 to 25, 2-00 pm: 1. Divine Ray (9) Richard Oliver 62.5, 2. Skyfire (8) P. Surya 62.5, 3. Bramastram (1) S. John 61.5, 4. Noble Ruler (3) A. Prakash 60.5, 5. Super Kind (7) Tousif Khan 60, 6. Divya Shakthi (5) Dhanu Singh 59.5, 7. He's The One (11) Darshan 58.5, 8. War Eagle (12) Arvind Kumar 58.5, 9. Chain Of Thoughts (4) Mark 58, 10. Altair (10) Ajeet Kumar 57.5, 11. Altamonte (6) Vivek 57.5 and 12. Ultimate Power (2) Vishal Bunde 53.5.
1. BRAMASTRAM, 2. SKYFIRE, 3. DIVYA SHAKTHI

2 RICHELIEU PLATE (DIV. II), (1,400m), rated 20 to 45, 4-y-o & over, 2-30: 1. In A Breeze (5) P.S. Chouhan 60, 2. Singhsaab (4) B. Nayak 57, 3. Eco Friendly (6) Arvind Kumar 56.5, 4. Christopher Wren (7) Vinod Shinde 55, 5. Mr Humble (2) Vishal Bunde 54, 6. Star Domination (3) Rayan 54, 7. Tyto Alba (1) Rajesh K 54, 8. Dragon's Gold (9) Richard Oliver 53.5 and 9. Thunderstruck (8) Ajeet Kumar 52.5.
1. IN A BREEZE, 2. DRAGON'S GOLD, 3. MR HUMBLE

3 YOUNG RAJPUT PLATE (1,600m), rated 20 to 45, 3-00: 1. Cyrenius (7) Sandesh 61, 2. Wild Emperor (4) Suraj 59, 3. Sacrament (9) Ranjeet Singh 57, 4. Triumphant (6) Trevor 56, 5. Je Ne Sais Quoi (8) Vishal Bunde 55.5, 6. Twilight Fame (1) Rajesh K 54, 7. Star Comet (3) C.S. Jodha 53.5, 8. Embosom (2) J.H. Arul 53 and 9. Turkoman (5) Hindu Singh 51.5.
1. CYRENIUS, 2. WILD EMPEROR, 3. TRIUMPHANT

4 K.N. GURUSWAMY MEMORIAL CUP (1,600m), maiden 3-y-o only, (Terms), 3-30: 1. All Attraction (1) Akshay K 56, 2. Flaming Falcon (4) Sandesh 56, 3. Phenom (3) N.S. Parmar 56, 4. Prague (9) Trevor 56, 5. Ripple N Storm (8) Ashok Kumar 56, 6. Sadler's Legacy (11) Yash 56, 7. Serdar (10) P.S. Chouhan 56, 8. Twilight Tornado (5) J.H. Arul 56, 9. Angel Bliss (2) K. Nazil 54.5, 10. Liberation (6) C.S. Jodha 54.5 and 11. Pleroma (7) P.P. Dhebe 54.5.
1. ALL ATTRACTION, 2. SADLER'S LEGACY, 3. PRAGUE

5 DT RACING & BREEDING LLP JUVENILE MILLION (1,400m), 3-y-o, (Terms), 4-00: 1. Last Wish (1) Sandesh 57, 2. Supernatural (5) P.S. Chouhan 57, 3. Arcana (2) Suraj 54, 4. King Louis (7) Trevor 54, 5. Leonardo (6) Akshay K 54, 6. Mojito (4) N.S. Parmar 54 and 7. Karyna (3) Bhawani Singh 52.5.
1. SUPERNATURAL, 2. LAST WISH

6 ASTOUNDING PLATE (1,200m), rated 20 to 45, 4-30: 1. Miniver Rose (8) S. Saqlain 61.5, 2. Chisox (10) J.H. Arul 58.5, 3. Chul Bul Rani (9) Salman Khan 58, 4. Domina (7) Hasib Alam 58, 5. Icelandic (1) Shreyas Singh 57.5, 6. The Strength (3) P. Siddaraju 56.5, 7. Copper Sunrise (5) A. Prakash 55, 8. The Preacher (4) Ikram Ahmed 53.5, 9. Rudram (6) Tousif Khan 52 and 10. The Sense (2) Abhay Singh 51.
1. CHISOX, 2. MINIVER ROSE, 3. CHUL BUL RANI

7 RICHELIEU PLATE (DIV. I), (1,400m), rated 20 to 45, 4-y-o & over, 5-00: 1. Prince Abir (4) Suraj 62.5, 2. Dr Logan (8) L.A. Rozario 59.5, 3. Own Legacy (5) C.S. Jodha 59.5, 4. Aberne (3) S. Shareef 59, 5. The Response (2) Arvind Kumar 59, 6. Casey (6) Darshan 58.5, 7. Muirfield (7) K. Nazil 58.5, 8. Osiris (10) Ajeet Kumar 56, 9. Sensational Grey (1) Abhay Singh 54.5 and 10. Elite Agent (9) Rajesh K 54.
1. PRINCE ABIR, 2. OWN LEGACY, 3. MUIRFIELD

Day's best: PRINCE ABIR
Double: CYRENIUS – SUPERNATURAL
Jkt: 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7. Tr (i): 2, 3 and 4; (ii): 5, 6 and 7.

Ascoval wins main event

BENGALURU: Pradeep Annaiah-trained Ascoval (Trevor up) won the Usha Stud Plate, the main event of the races held here on Saturday (June 4). The winner is owned by Mr. Rajan Aggarwal, Mr. Gautam Aggarwal and Mrs. Geeta Aggarwal.

1. UDHAGAMANDALAM PLATE (DIV. II), (1,100m), rated 00 to 25: LADY SUPREMOS (Yash) 1, Jai Vikram (G. Vivek) 2, Perfect Halo (Rajesh K) 3 and Zhu Zhu Zest (Vishal Bunde) 4. Not run: Gold Gray. 4-1/2, Shd and 4. 1m, 08.12s. ₹42 (w), 16, 12 and 10 (p), SHP: 32, THP: 42, FP: 96, Q: 54, Trinella: 179 and 60, Exacta: 523 and 328. Favourite: Perfect Halo. Owners: Mr. Daulat Chhabria & Mrs. Radhika Narredu. Trainer: S. Narredu.

2. CIVIL SERVICE TROPHY (DIV. II), (1,100m), maiden 3-y-o only, (Terms): POLISHED GIRL (Suraj) 1, Queenstown (Dashrath Singh) 2, Roman Power (Trevor) 3 and Excellent Ray (Yash) 4. 6-1/2, 3 and 2. 1m, 07.26s. ₹17 (w), 13, 14 and 18 (p), SHP: 34, THP: 42, FP: 60, Q: 36, Trinella: 185 and 103, Exacta: 568 and 349. Favourite: Polished Girl. Owners: Mr. Daulat Chhabria, Mr. K. Kaliyaperumal, Mr. M. Ravi and Mrs. R. Chellam. Trainer: Rajesh Narredu.

3. RAJA OF BOBBILI MEMORIAL TROPHY (1,400m), rated 40 to 65, 5-y-o & over: FOREVER TOGETHER (Suraj) 1, Caracas (Trevor) 2, Capable (J.H. Arul) 3 and Garamond (Akshay K) 4. 3, Hd and 1-3/4. 1m, 27.09s. ₹19 (w), 13, 15 and 17 (p), SHP: 30, THP: 32, FP: 78, Q: 39, Trinella: 248 and 185, Exacta: 326 and 76. Favourite: Forever Together. Owners: Villoo Poonawalla Racing & Breeding Pvt Ltd rep by. Mr. Cyrus S. Poonawalla, Mr. Adar C. Poonawalla & Mrs. Natasha A. Poonawalla. Trainer: Rajesh Narredu.

4. CIVIL SERVICE TROPHY (DIV. I), (1,100m), maiden 3-y-o only, (Terms): LA REINA (Sandesh) 1, Star Admiral (Bhawani Singh) 2, Forty Niner (Rayan) 3 and Urban Borbon (Hindu Singh) 4. 1-3/4, 1 and 3/4. 1m, 08.35s. ₹16 (w), 13, 13 and 18 (p), SHP: 26, THP: 45, FP: 45, Q: 31, Trinella: 330 and 211, Exacta: 1,199 and 570. Favourite: La Reina. Owner: Queen's Gambit Racing Syndicate. Trainer: S. Padmanabhan.

5. USHA STUD PLATE (1,200m), rated 40 to 65, 4-y-o & over: ASCOVAL (Trevor) 1, Lord Vader (Bhawani Singh) 2, The Inheritor (J.H. Arul) 3 and Del Mar (Ashhad Asbar) 4. 7-3/4, Nose and 1-1/4. 1m, 13.18s. ₹15 (w), 11, 18 and 16 (p), SHP: 40, THP: 41, FP: 46, Q: 35, Trinella: 131 and 72, Exacta: 756 and 802. Favourite: Ascoval. Owners: Mr. Rajan Aggarwal, Mr. Gautam Aggarwal and Mrs. Geeta Aggarwal. Trainer: Pradeep Annaiah.

6. UDHAGAMANDALAM PLATE (DIV. I), (1,100m), rated 00 to 25: BARONESS (Rajesh K) 1, Stunning Beauty (Arvind Kumar) 2, Frederico (Likith Appu) 3 and Artesian (Vinod Shinde) 4. Not Run: Southernaristocrat. 2, 1 and 1-1/2. 1m, 10.32s. ₹26 (w), 13, 14 and 14 (p), SHP: 40, THP: 41, FP: 139, Q: 87, Trinella: 243 and 134, Exacta: 873 and 838. Favourite: Baroness. Owner: Mr. S.N. Harish. Trainer: Narayana Gowda.

Jackpot: ₹386 (164 tkts.); Runner-up: 29 (933 tkts.); Treble (i): 179 (40 tkts.); (ii): 120 (108 tkts.).

Desert Crown wins Epsom Derby

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
EPSOM

Desert Crown, ridden by Richard Kingscote, produced an imperious display to give trainer Michael Stoute his sixth win in the Epsom Derby on Saturday, which was part of Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee celebrations. Stoute, 76, had already trained a Derby winner for owner Saeed Suhail, Kris Kin in 2003.

Pradeep's record in 800m

JR. FED CUP

SPORTS BUREAU

Tamil Nadu's Pradeep Senthilkumar broke former Asian youth champion Beant Singh's seven-year-old 800m meet record at the 20th National Federation Cup junior (under-20) athletics in Nadiad, Gujarat, on Saturday.

Meanwhile, Karnataka's junior international Priya H. Mohan won the 200m comfortably.

The results (winners only): Men: 200m: T.K. Vishal (TN) 21.71s; **800m:** Pradeep Senthilkumar (TN) 1:49.59s (MR, Old: 1:49.95); **3000m:** Ritik Deol (Del) 8:29.16s; **3000m steeplechase:** Vishal Chauhan (UP) 9:33.24s.

400m hurdles: Hardeep (Pun) 52.40s; **high jump:** Praveen Kuamr (Del) and Md Asraf Ali (WB) 2.06m; **triple jump:** Selva Prabhu (TN) 15.84m; **hammer throw:** 1. Vinit (Haryana) 66.87m.

Women: 200m: Priya H Mohan (Kar) 23.98s; **800m:** 1. Ashakiran Barla (Jharkhand) 2:06.78s; **3000m:** Drashtiben P. Chaudhri (Guj) 9:39.88s; **3000m steeplechase:** Pallavi Jagdale (Mah) 11:25.25s.

400m hurdles: Simmy (Har) 1:00.72s (MR, Old: 1:00.91); **10000m race walk:** Mansi Negi (Utkd) 49:54.88s; **triple Jump:** Poorva Sawant (Mah) 12.65m; **hammer:** Tanya Chaudhary (UP) 57.09m (MR, Old: 52.49); **Javelin:** Ramyashree Jain (Kar) 44.42m; **heptathlon:** Pooja (Har) 4699 pts.

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Harsha stars for Parikram

Harsha scored a hat-trick as Parikram FC blanked Blitz FC 3-0 in the BDFA B-division league championship, here on Saturday.

The results: South India FC 1 (K. Singh 58) bt Md. Sporting FC 0; AGORC FC 1 (Jai Kumar 59) drew with HAL FC 1 (Sathish Kumar 26); Parikram FC 3 (Harsha Melkhed 17, 59, 75) bt Blitz FC 0.

Mohit and Gayatri triumph

Mohit Mayur and Gayatri Rajesh Menon emerged the men's and women's singles champions respectively at the Topspin AITA Pro Circuit tennis tournament, which concluded here on Saturday.

The results (finals): Men: Mohit Mayur Jayaprakash bt G. Manish 6-3, 6-4; Gayatri Rajesh Menon bt Prathiba Prasad Narayan 6-1, 7-5.

Winners: Singles champions Gayatri Rajesh Menon and Mohit Mayur. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Prayag bowls well for NICE

Prayag Bijesh picked up a four-wicket haul (4/13) as NICE registered a six-wicket win over Six Academy in the under-12 final of the Save Water Cup 2022, held here.

The scores (finals):

U-16: Six Academy 153/7 in 30 overs (Akash Shetty 44, P. Akshath 35, Naman 3/27, Aarush Mishra 3/28) lost to GSCA 155/3 in 26.5 overs (Atharv Malaviya 40, K.S. Mokhit 39).

U-12: Six Academy 113/7 in 20 overs (Prayag Bijesh 4/13) lost to NICE 114/4 in 20 overs (Aaryansinh Chavda 45, Rahul 28).

Malleswaram Association beats KSBA-A

Malleswaram Association defeated KSBA-A 604-569 in a Group-A match of the Chandra Bhatia inter-club snooker championship.

Other results: Group B: Century Club-A 696 bt KGS 580; **Group C:** BCI 631 bt Catholic Club 503; **Group D:** Indian Gymkhana Club 695 bt Century Club-B 631.

Vishnu stars in Ramaiah's title win

Vishnu top-scored with 20 points as Ramaiah Institute of Technology defeated RVCE 77-64 in the final of the Momentum 2022 Cup inter-collegiate basketball championship held recently.

The result (final): Ramaiah 77 (Vishnu 20, Rohan 18) bt RVCE 64 (Vikas 16, Nakul 15).

Swiatek brushes aside Gauff, clinches second title at Roland-Garros

The Pole equals Venus Williams' record for the most number of consecutive match-wins in the 21st century

FRENCH OPEN

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
PARIS

Iga Swiatek cruised to her second French Open title by dominating teenager Coco Gauff in the final on Saturday, as the World No. 1 claimed her 35th successive victory.

The 21-year-old Pole stormed to a 6-1, 6-3 win in only 68 minutes, equalling Venus Williams' record for the longest winning run by a woman in the 21st century.

Swiatek celebrated her sixth straight title this year in the players' box with her friends and family.

My precious! Swiatek became only the 10th woman to win multiple titles in Paris in the Open Era, needing just 68 minutes for a straight-set win over Gauff. • GETTY IMAGES

Heartbroken

A disconsolate Gauff was left sitting on her seat in tears after a nervous performance, punctuated by 23 unforced errors and three double faults.

The 18-year-old American came up short in her bid to become the youngest Grand Slam singles champion since Maria Sharapova won Wimbledon in 2004.

Swiatek, only the 10th woman to win multiple French Opens in the Open Era, lost just one set in the tournament – against China's Zheng Qinwen in the fourth round.

Gauff looked nervous in the opening exchanges and a flurry of unforced errors handed Swiatek a break in the very first game.

The 18th seed found herself 3-0 and a double break down just 16 minutes into the match, as Swiatek's powerful backhand helped her win a lengthy third game on her fifth break point.

Gauff finally got on the board with a scrappy hold to the delight of the crowd, but she had dropped a set for the first time in the tournament just minutes later.

Swiatek was not playing her best, but a cross-court backhand winner brought up two set points and she took the second opportunity when Gauff fired wide.

The Pole gifted her opponent a potential route back into the match, making four unforced errors to throw away her serve in the first game of the second set.

Swiatek, however, recomposed herself, winning five straight games to move within one of the title, losing only five points in the process.

Gauff dug deep to force Swiatek to serve for the trophy. But the top seed did just that on her first match point, dropping to the red clay in celebration as Gauff sent a return flying long.

Marcelo Arevalo and Jean-Julien Rojer captured their first Grand Slam men's doubles title together, rallying past Ivan Dodig and Austin Krajicek 6-7(4), 7-6(5), 6-3 in the final. Arevalo and Rojer saved three championship points on serve at 5-6 in the second set en route to a three-hours-and-three-minutes victory.

Japan's Shingo Kunieda won his eighth French Open men's wheelchair title and 27th Grand Slam crown with a 6-2, 5-7, 7-5 victory over Gustavo Fernandez of Argentina.

In the women's final, top seeded Dutchwoman Diede de Groot continued her mastery of Japan's Yui Kamiji with a 6-4, 6-1 victory to secure a third French Open title and 14th Slam overall.

Day in numbers

4 Swiatek is the fourth youngest women's player to win two titles at Roland-Garros after Seles, Graf and Evert

6 Swiatek is the sixth player in the Open Era to win her first two finals at the French Open. Previous: Court, Graf, Seles, Henin and Serena

6 Swiatek is only the second player in the 2000s to win six titles in the first six months of the year (Doha, Indian Wells, Miami, Stuttgart, Rome and Roland-Garros) after Serena in 2013 (Brisbane, Miami, Charleston, Madrid, Rome and Roland-Garros)

9 Starting from the 2020 French Open, Swiatek has won all nine of her WTA Tour-level finals. All of them are straight-set victories

10 Swiatek is the tenth active women's singles player with more than one Slam title. Others: Serena, Venus, Kuznetsova, Azarenka, Kvitova, Kerber, Muguruza, Osaka and Halep

35 The win over Gauff was Swiatek's 35th on the bounce, equalling Venus for the longest streak this century

SUNDAY'S PICKS

SINGLES: MEN'S FINAL
5-Nadal **vs.** 8-Ruud

DOUBLES: WOMEN'S FINAL
8-Gauff / Pegula **vs.** Garcia / Mladenovic

Can Ruud halt Nadal in the Spaniard's backyard?

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
PARIS

Rafael Nadal will become the oldest man to win the French Open title if he defeats Casper Ruud, the Norwegian whose clay court talents he has personally helped foster.

Nadal will be playing in his 14th Roland Garros final on Sunday and 30th overall at the Grand Slams.

World No. 8 Ruud, 23, is the tour's in-form clay court player.

Not only have seven of his eight career titles come on clay, but he has won 66 matches on the surface since 2020 and played in nine finals.

Ruud is the first Norwegian to reach a Grand Slam final, beating 2014 U.S. Open champion Marin Cilic 3-6, 6-4, 6-2, 6-2 in the semifinals. Ruud has been training at Nadal's academy in Manacor since 2018 alongside his father Christian, a former top 40 player, and Spaniard Pedro Clar.

Nadal and Ruud have never met professionally but they are often hitting partners in Spain where the Norwegian admits "he has beaten me pretty much all the times in practice".

"Casper has a very good character to play tennis. He's very relaxed, humble. He's always in a positive mood about learning," said Nadal. "I think in the academy we were able to help him a little bit during this period of time."

Ruud was just six years old when Nadal was first crowned French Open champion and describes the Spaniard as his "idol".

"I could probably tell you all the finals and who he has played and who he has beaten, because I watched them all on TV," said the Norwegian. "He's the greatest clay court player of all time and one of the greatest all-around players."

Master and the Pupil

As Nadal looks to win a record-extending 22nd Major, a herculean task awaits first-time finalist Ruud

- Nadal and Ruud's clash will be the first Grand Slam final with a first-time career meeting since Djokovic and Tsonga met in the 2008 Australian Open final
- Nadal has never won the first two Slams of the year in the same season
- Ruud has won just two of his last 10 matches against top-10 players (vs. Zverev, Miami 2022 and vs. Rublev, ATP Tour Finals 2021)
- Ruud, ranked No.8, can become the second-lowest ranked opponent to beat Nadal in a Grand Slam final after Wawrinka (No.8, Aus Open 2014) and Federer (No.17, Aus Open 2017)

Role-defining series for players: Bavuma

Chance for South Africa to re-group

S. DIPAK RAGAV
CHENNAI

For the first time in nearly eight months since its last outing at the ICC World T20 in the United Arab Emirates last year, South Africa will play an international Twenty20 match when it takes on India in a five-match series that starts in Delhi on Thursday.

The team began practice sessions on Friday and skipper Temba Bavuma hoped to use the series as a chance for the team to get together after a long time.

When asked what he hopes to gain from this series considering the conditions are very different to the one in Australia, Bavuma said, "I think any type of competitive cricket will be good for us and we will be using the games to familiarise ourselves again with how we go about playing our cricket and getting the guys to understand what their roles are within the team.

"We also want to solidify our positions from a batting point of view, especially at the top with who is going to partner Quinton de Kock," the Proteas skipper said.

While South Africa will field a full-strength side, India has opted to rest some of its key players with K.L. Rahul leading the side in Rohit Sharma's absence.

Bavuma. • FILE PHOTO

"We don't see it as taking on a B side. We play against the Indian T20 side and the competitiveness will be there. I think the attitude, and the mindset of the Indian team in the last couple of years have changed. They are guys who play cricket hard and play very competitively," said Bavuma, who anticipates a stern test.

"So whether Rohit Sharma or Virat Kohli is not playing, the Indian fighting spirit will still be there. We don't expect them to take it easy on us," he said.

Root, Stokes drive England's chase

They put on a valuable stand after Jamieson's heroics

NZ IN ENGLAND

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE
LONDON

England captain Ben Stokes (54) and his predecessor Joe Root (77 batting) led a thrilling rally with a 90-run stand at Lord's on Saturday to set up a dramatic finish to the first Test against New Zealand.

England was 216 for five at stumps on the third day, needing just 61 more runs to reach a victory target of 277 but with no more recognised batsmen left to come in.

In what is Stokes' first match as skipper since succeeding Root, England had collapsed in familiar fashion to be 69 for four, with towering paceman Kyle Jamieson taking four for 49 in 20 overs.

Peach of a delivery: Ollie Pope has no clue and is castled by this Boult special • GETTY IMAGES

Earlier, England great Stuart Broad sparked a sensational New Zealand collapse after Daryl Mitchell made a hundred as the World Test champion, which had been 251 for four, was dismissed for 285 in its second innings.

But by then Mitchell, who made 108, and Tom Blundell (96) had shared a stand of 195, more than the teams' first innings scores.

SCOREBOARD

New Zealand – 1st innings: 132.

England – 1st innings: 141.

New Zealand – 2nd innings: Tom Latham c Foakes b Potts 14, Will Young c Foakes b Anderson 1, Kane Williamson c Bairstow b Potts 15, Devon Conway c Foakes b Broad 13, Daryl Mitchell c Foakes b Broad 108, Tom Blundell lbw b Anderson 96, Colin de Grandhomme run out 0, Kyle Jamieson b Broad 0, Tim Southee c Root b Parkinson 21, Ajaz Patel lbw b Potts 4, Trent Boult (not out) 4; Extras (b-1, lb-4, nb-3, w-1): 9; Total (in 91.3 overs): 285.

Fall of wickets: 1-5, 2-30, 3-35, 4-56, 5-251, 6-251, 7-251, 8-265, 9-281.

England bowling: Anderson 21-7-57-2, Broad 26-7-76-3, Potts 20-3-55-3, Stokes 8-1-43-0, Parkinson 15.3-0-47-1, Root 1-0-2-0.

England – 2nd innings: Alex Lees b Jamieson 20, Zak Crawley c Southee b Jamieson 9, Ollie Pope b Boult 10, Joe Root (batting) 77, Jonny Bairstow b Jamieson 16, Ben Stokes c Blundell b Jamieson 54, Ben Foakes (batting) 9; Extras (b-6, lb-7, nb-2, w-6): 21; Total (for five wkts. in 65 overs): 216.

Fall of wickets: 1-31, 2-32, 3-46, 4-69, 5-159.

New Zealand bowling: Southee 19-5-58-0, Boult 20-3-61-1, Jamieson 20-4-59-4, De Grandhomme 3.5-1-3-0, Mitchell 0.1-0-0-0, Patel 2-0-22-0.

Sindhu has a gruelling schedule ahead

'Injury management will be key'

BADMINTON

ASHWIN ACHAL
BENGALURU

Injury management will be key as P.V. Sindhu takes on a gruelling tournament schedule over the next two months.

Sindhu will compete in five tournaments – two in Indonesia, two in Malaysia and one in Singapore – before heading for the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham.

P.V. Sindhu. • K. MURALI KUMAR

Falling short

The World No. 7 has exited in the semifinal stage in her last three tournaments – Thailand Open, Badminton Asia Championships and Korea Open.

In the Uber Cup team competition held last month, Sindhu recorded two wins and two losses.

"It's a tough schedule. I'm hoping to do my best, be in good form and stay injury-free. Superseries events are the immediate short-term goal, and the Commonwealth Games is the main goal. Injury management is a tough thing. To be at 100 percent, we have to take care of our bodies and be mentally and physically fit," Sindhu said at the launch ceremony of the Grand Prix Badminton League here on Saturday.

Young talent

On the young talent in the country, the two-time Olympic medallist stated, "There is a bit of a gap (between the established performers and the rest), but there are a few who are doing well. I have seen a couple of them.

"In the Uber Cup, we saw Aakarshi (Kashyap), Ashmitha (Chaliha) and others. There are several girls who are doing well, but I would say that they need to work hard. It's not just about doing well for a couple of months or years. They need to do a lot more to get to that level," Sindhu said.

LIVE TELECAST

Khelo India Youth Games: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 9.30 a.m. onwards
England vs New Zealand: 1st Test, day 4, Sony Ten 1 (SD & HD) & Sony LIV, 3.30 p.m.
FIH Pro League: SS Select 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 6.30 p.m., 8.30 p.m., 11 p.m. & 1.30 a.m. (Monday)
French Open: Sony Ten 2, 3 & Sony Six (SD & HD) & Sony LIV, 6.30 p.m.
UEFA Nations League: Sony Ten 1 & 2 (SD & HD) & Sony LIV, 1.30 a.m. (Monday)

Sarita, Manisha clinch gold

SPORTS BUREAU

Sarita Mor (59kg) and Manisha (65kg) won gold medals in the Bolat Turlykhanov second ranking series wrestling tournament at Almaty on Saturday.

Sarita defeated Azerbaijan's Zhala Aliyeva 10-0 in the final to claim the title while Manisha beat Azerbaijan's Elis Manolova 8-0 for the top honour.

Bipasha (72kg) lost to Kazakhstan's Zhamila Bakbergenova 7-5 to finish with a silver. Sushma Shokeen (55kg) and Mohit Grewal (men's 125kg) took bronze medals.

Sakshi Malik (62kg), Mansi (57kg) and Divya Kakran (68kg) bagged gold medals and Pooja (76kg) won a bronze on Friday.

Mixed day for India

FIH HOCKEY 5S

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LAUSANNE

The Indian men's team began its campaign in the inaugural FIH Hockey 5s with a 4-3 win over host Switzerland before playing out a pulsating 2-2 draw against arch-rival Pakistan here on Saturday.

The Indian women's team, however, lost both its matches against Uruguay (3-4) and Poland (1-3).

A Hockey 5s match is of 20 minutes, divide into two halves of 10 minutes each.

In its second match, the Indian men led twice but conceded a last minute goal to play out a 2-2 draw against the arch-rival.

The Graham Reid-coached side will take on Malaysia and Poland on Sunday.

KIYG off to a vibrant start

Home Minister Amit Shah launches event

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday launched the Khelo India Youth Games in Haryana's Panchkula as the venue was lit up with vibrant colorful lights during the inauguration ceremony.

KIYG's fourth edition will be held till June 13. Apart from the Tau Devi Lal Sports Stadium in Panchkula, Chandigarh, Ambala, Shahabad and Delhi will also play host to a few disciplines.

Over 4,700 athletes including 2,262 girls will fight for gold and glory in 25 disciplines including five traditional sports like *Gatka, Kalaripayattu, Thang-Ta, Malkhamb* and *Yogasana*.

For the first time in the KIYG, a state-wide torch relay was organised by Haryana. The specially designed canters toured all the districts and encouraged children to take up sports.

Grand opening: Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Haryana CM Manohar Lal Khattar, centre, and Haryana Deputy CM Dushyant Singh Chautala, left, at the inauguration. • PTI

Torch relay

The flame was lit at the stadium, from where the torch relay was flagged off 25 days earlier. During this, the athletes took an Olympic-style oath to respect and follow the rules of the game.

Haryana continued to dominate the day's proceedings as its boys and girls' volleyball teams beat Delhi and Uttar Pradesh in straight sets.

Denmark stuns France

A long wait for The Netherlands ends

ASSOCIATED PRESS
BRUSSELS

Denmark stunned titleholder France 2-1 in their opening Nations League match at the Stade de France on Friday, ending the world champion's seven-match winning streak.

After Karim Benzema put the hosts in front, substitute Andreas Cornelius scored twice to earn Denmark its first win over France since the 2002 World Cup. Cornelius leveled with a fine volley then hit the winner in the 88th minute.

Meanwhile, Memphis Depay scored twice as the Netherlands produced its first win against bitter rival Belgium in 25 years by 4-1 in Brussels, in another group of the top-tier League A.

A week after the Champions League final was marred by crowd chaos, there were no reported incidents at the Stade de France this time.

The four group winners in League A will qualify for the final four in June next year.

The results: League A: Group 1: France 1 (Benzema 51) lost to Denmark 2 (Cornelius 68, 88); Croatia 0 lost to Austria 3 (Arnautovic 41, Gregoritsch 54, Sabitzer 57).

Group 4: Belgium 1 (Batshuayi 90+3) lost to the Netherlands 4 (Bergwijn 40, Depay 51, 65, Dumfries 61).

League C: Group 3: Belarus 0 lost to Slovakia 1 (Suslov 61); Kazakhstan 2 (Aimbetov 50, 60) bt Azerbaijan 0.

League D: Group 1: Latvia 3 (Uldrikis 9, 77, Ikaunieks 85-pen) bt Andorra 0; Liechtenstein 0 lost to Moldova 2 (Nicolaescu 5-pen, Bolohan 90+1).

Ashi & Swapnil strike gold

SHOOTING WC

SPORTS BUREAU

Ashi Chouksey and Swapnil Kusale beat Daria Tykhova and Serhiy Kulish of Ukraine 16-12 for the gold medal in the 50-metre rifle mixed team event at the shooting World Cup in Baku, Azerbaijan.

It was the second gold for India, and the third medal for Swapnil, who had won the individual silver behind Kulish apart from the team silver.

After staying close to the Ukraine team in two stages of qualification, the Indian pair did well to strike its best in the gold match.

The first Indian team of Anjum Moudgil and Deepak Kumar finished seventh and missed qualifying for a medal match by two points.

With two gold and three silver, India is in the second spot in the medals table behind Korea which has three gold and three bronze.

On target: Ashi and Swapnil with their big prize. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The results:

50m rifle 3-position: Mixed team: 1. India-2 (Ashi Chouksey, Swapnil Kusale) 16 (583) 881; 2. Ukraine (Daria Tykhova, Serhiy Kulish) 12 (583) 884; 3. Poland (Aneta Stankiewicz, Tomasz Bartnik) 17 (581) 887; 7. India-1 (Anjum Moudgil, Deepak Kumar) 579 (879).